

Fairy Tail: Oberon

by Chuckling-Ghost

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Summary: AU starring my OC Oberon Williamson and all of our most beloved Fairy Tail characters. After appearing badly wounded in the forest near Magnolia in year X772, he is recruited to Fairy Tail by Makarov and Oby sets out to live life to the fullest and put the ghosts of his past to rest. Everybody's getting new tricks to keep up with an OPMC and the more powerful world they now live in

1. Chapter 1: Oby

Chapter 1-Oby

=Year X772=

Master Makarov paused as he heard the scream. He hadn't thought much of the tremendous crash that had sent birds all over the forest hurtling upwards to get away, strange things happened in the East Forest. The scream though was definitely human. It wasn't frightened, it sounded like it was in pain. Makarov debated for a moment whether or not to get involved and then the mark on his chest reminded him of who he was. He momentarily grew to his giant form to see if he could spot the crash and was stunned to see an entire chunk of the forest gone.

Not blown away or burned to a crisp just, gone. Like it had never been there at all. In the center of the perfectly round patch of dirt was a tiny figure in black. Makarov took three giant steps and was in the edge of the circle. He shrunk back down and ran to check on the mysterious figure, his mind racing as he wondered what could have destroyed the forest in such a way. As he approached the figure he could hear pained hissing breathing that was trying not to cry.

The boy had white hair and was wearing all black. His right hand was horribly mangled, and he was curled around it shaking and clutching his torso. Makarov was standing over him before he said anything, and as he looked he saw that even though the boy's clothing was shredded

and covered in blood, except for the arm his body was totally unscathed. Makarov poked him, "What happened to you boy?"

Despite the apparently excruciating pain, the boy managed to spring away and land on his feet ready for a fight. It would've been very impressive if he hadn't used his injured hand to stop his skid and fallen forward onto his side gasping at the pain and trying not to scream again. Makarov smiled slightly and then wiped the smile from his face in favor of a stern expression, if the kid wanted a fight, then injured or not he'd get one. He didn't go any closer but, "I said, what happened to you boy? I can get you help for that arm, but only if you tell me who you are and what happened to you."

The boy managed to force his breathing back to steadiness and shove himself up onto his knees with his good hand and a grunt. "Don't bother," he growled as he laid his good hand to his injured one and snarled, "Arc of Time!" Makarov made a face as the boy's expression twisted with concentration and pain. A moment later the boy released the spell he was trying to execute panting, "On second thought," he grumbled as he ripped a strip of fabric loose from his clothes, held it in his teeth and started tying it around his arm with one hand, "If you've got something I can take this off and cauterize it with, I'd be grateful." Makarov smacked him in the head, "Don't be a fool lad, we can go get that fixed easily! I'm not helping you cut your own arm off!"

The boy pulled one leg up and then forced himself to stand, "Guess I'll be off then. I appreciate your concern. I'm going to find something to stop the bleeding." Makarov sighed as the boy started staggering off, "Damn stubborn brat's worse than Laxus." The boy froze and looked over his shoulder, "Laxus Dreyar? Are you Makarov?" Makarov frowned in confusion at the almost frightened expression on the boy's face, "Yes I am." The boy took off running without another word, tripped before he got fifty feet, managed to avoid landing on his injured arm and furiously tried to scramble away.

Makarov watched him in confusion, "Wait! Where are you going?!" The boy didn't answer and kept running. Makarov sighed angrily and then expanded his arm, effortlessly reaching out, "I SAID WAIT!" WHAM! His giant hand slammed down on the boy like a sack of bricks, earning Makarov a bellow of pain from the boy. Makarov strode over, "I see, you're from a Dark Guild and you're afraid I'll turn you in." The boy didn't answer and Makarov saw that he was barely conscious and shaking.

Makarov sighed again and grew until he was big enough to pick the boy up easily, "Porlyusica's gonna be mad as a hornet's nest."

==A Few Minutes Later==

"What happened to him?" Porlyusica asked as she examined the boy's arm, "I haven't seen damage this severe in years, and his magic power is completely gone." "Will he be alright?" Makarov asked. Porlyusica shook her head, "I'm not sure. He's from a Dark Guild you say? He must've gotten in a fight with someone bigger than he was." She started bandaging the boy's hand and then paused, "We need to get him out of these clothes so I can check the rest of his body for wounds." A moment later they had him out of his clothes and Makarov studied the emblem on the boy's shoulder as Porlyusica bandaged his hand, "I've never seen this mark before, it must be some new Dark

Guild."

"You can question him when I'm done patching him up," Porlyusica warned. Makarov took a step back and let her finish. A little while later she stepped away, "He should be okay now. I want him to stay here for a few days so that I can make sure his arm will heal properly, and he'll need lots of rest." The boy's eyes cracked open, "Actually if I can have some water, I'll be out of your hair in no time." Porlyusica turned to glare at him, "Don't be ridiculous! Have you seen your hand? As much blood as you've probably lost you're not to get out of that bed for at least twenty four hours!"

The boy smiled weakly, "Most of my body was like my hand when I landed. Master doesn't fool around when he decides to kill something. I don't think anyone else would've survived that." Porlyusica and Makarov stared as he proceeded to explain how he had been booted out of his guild. He teared up slightly but got all the way through it, examining his bandaged hand the whole time.

He laughed slightly, "You know, I have the worst luck with this hand. It's the same hand I nearly lost when Deliora flattened my home town. Had to be saved then too. Tch, never thought it would turn out like this." His voice finally cracked and whether the shaking and erratic sound he made next was laughter or sobbing was hard to tell as he laid his bandaged hand over his eyes.

Makarov and Porlyusica stared, still too horrified by the boy's story to speak. Then the boy suddenly lowered his bandaged hand to his side and reached across to the shoulder his guild mark was printed on with his good hand, still laugh-sobbing. Makarov and Porlyusica didn't realize what he was doing until he suddenly roared in anguish and blue light exploded out from between his fingers. He looked away, finally silent except for his heavy panting breaths.

Porlyusica seemed to teleport across the room to swat him and yell, "WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!" "Sorry," the boy panted, "Had to, had to get that off. Bastard doesn't, doesn't deserve my loyalty. Doesn't deserve, any of our, loyalty. Not, not after that." Then the real sobbing started.

==A Moment Later==

Porlyusica and Makarov sat on the steps outside. "What do you think we should do about him?" Makarov asked quietly. "He's turned his back on that dark path he was on. He'll never go back to someone who murdered his best friend and tried to kill him," Porlyusica said grimly, "He's going to need somewhere to stay." "You mean Fairy Tail?" Makarov asked quietly. "It would be the best way to keep an eye on him," Porlyusica replied, "and if he's half as well trained and powerful as he claims then it sounds like he's already an extremely powerful young wizard. Do you really want him just wandering around alone for some random Dark Guild to snatch themselves up a new ace?"

"His past is certainly something to be concerned about," Makarov said quietly, "Can we trust him?" Porlyusica turned to look at him, "You think he's faking?" "It's not impossible. He had enough grit to get up and try to run with that wound, he's got enough grit to wipe his own guild mark to go undercover. Plus we have no evidence that he's telling the truth."

The door opened behind them and the boy stepped out, calmly walking down the stairs, looking tired but still patting Porlyusica on the shoulder with the hand that had only moments before been wrapped in bandages and horribly mangled, "Thank you for your kindness. I'm sorry I drank half of your water barrel." Porlyusica and Makarov stared as he strode down the steps waving over his shoulder, "I know where I'm not welcome, but if you're ever in a pinch, give me a shou-" He abruptly swore loudly as his leg gave out from under him and sent him tumbling down the steps.

He landed sprawled on his back, inhaled deeply to calm himself and continued as though nothing had happened, "give me a shout and I'll come a runnin. I owe ya one." He grunted and tried to sit up only to find Porlyusica and Makarov catching him under the arms and dragging him back up the steps. "You can thank me by doing what I tell you to and staying in bed until you're recovered!" Porlyusica snapped. "And when you're done with that," Makarov added, "Fairy Tail is always in need of new wizards, and you sound like a fine one. You can thank me by coming to the Guild Hall and giving us a chance to prove we're better than your old guild."

The boy laughed weakly as he looked up at the sun shining down through the cloudy skies above the forest, "Guess I should tell you my name then. I'm Oberon Williamson, my friends call me Oby." "Well Oby, it's nice to meet you," Makarov grinned.

==One Month Later==

"So your dad's a member of Fairy Tail? Who is it? I'm new too, but maybe I can help." "His name is Gildarts," Cana replied timidly. Oby did a slight double take, "Gildarts?!" "Um, yeah," Cana replied, unsure if Oby's reaction was a good sign or not, "Do you know him?" "Everyone knows Gildarts! He's one of the strongest wizards in Fairy Tail! Now come on! We've gotta hurry before he takes another job!" Off they went, Oby leading Cana through Magnolia towards the guild hall he had recently come to call home as fast as he could go.

They caught Gildarts just as he was coming out the door. Gildarts looked down at them and blinked, "Hey, eh Oby right? Got yourself a girlfriend?" A flash of irritation lit Oby's eyes before he grinned and pointed at Gildarts, "Actually Gildarts, Cana here has been looking for her dad. I need you to help! He's a big guy with red hair that breaks things all the time." Gildarts looked over his shoulder into the rowdy guild hall thinking hard as he tried to spot someone who matched that description and then Oby nudged Cana with a huge grin, "What did you say his name was Ms. Alberona?" Gildarts' head whipped around just in time for Cana to look up at him and timidly say "Gildarts."

"What happened?!" She wailed an instant later, "Daddy! Wake up!" Oby sniggered, "It's alright Cana, you just startled him. Good job! I've never seen anyone knock out Gildarts before! And the look on his face!" Oby couldn't take it anymore and started howling with laughter as he patted Cana on the shoulder, "Welcome to Fairy Tail Cana! I'll go tell Gramps you're here!" He strode into the Guild Hall laughing as Gildarts came to and sat up smiling. He reached out and wrapped Cana in a hug, "So I'm a father now," he chuckled, "Never thought I'd see the day."

2. Chapter 2: A Cold Day

Chapter 2: A Cold Day

=2 Years Later=

The people of Brago watched in horror as the massive demon Deliora trampled their city, the ice wizard that had come to help battling futilely to drive it away.

Down in the city Ur ordered Gray and Lyon to get away while she dealt with the demon. Suddenly a voice cut off their protests, "Actually Madame Ur, I would appreciate it if you would take your daughter and your students and get to safety. I'll patch your leg up after I kill Deliora." Ur, Gray and Lyon whirled and saw a man in a long dark coat with stark white hair standing next to a little girl with short dark hair. Ur stared in shock, "Ultear?" Ultear smiled, "Mommy?" "HEADS UP!" Gray and Lyon yelled in unison as Deliora turned to unleash a magic bolt at them.

It was too late to run though. The bolt was already on its way. The young man raised a hand with a stern expression and the blast washed against an invisible barrier. "Go. All of you. This is about to get nasty." He shifted and threw a full body punch in Deliora's direction, "SLAM!" Everything between Deliora and the invisible barrier was suddenly shoved at the demon as though a giant hand had just swept an entire chunk of the city aside in the blink of an eye. As Deliora went skidding backwards, the young man took off his coat, "Ultear, would you hold my coat and get them out of here?" Ultear took the coat and pulled Ur away as fast as she could. Gray and Lyon quickly followed as the wizard leapt skyward, hovering midair and calling, "Over here ya sack o' shit!" before zooming off regardless of gravity.

Deliora roared and launched another laser at him, keeping his fire up and following the airborne wizard until its own magical blast bounced back off an invisible barrier and hit the massive demon full on. Deliora roared in outrage and threw a tremendously fast punch at the wizard, trying to swat him from the sky as it staggered. The wizard effortlessly dodged the massive claw and spun midair, a hurricane whirling to life along his flight path behind him. Before anyone could fathom the purpose of the whirling airborne tunnel of wind and water, the wizard twisted midair, "MAELSTROM SCYTHER!" and swung the raging torrent at the demon.

Before it could connect, Deliora disappeared. Those paying the sharpest of attention saw Deliora jump. Everyone saw Deliora land as lava splashed twenty feet high and suddenly solidified. The wizard laughed as he landed and all the snow in the city suddenly liquefied, "Let's see you dodge this!" The water all suddenly rose into the sky and then, "DEEP SEA GUILLOTINE!" The water slammed down on top of Deliora with such force that much of the rubble around the demon was instantly washed away.

A second later, Deliora collapsed in several directions at once. The water had sliced the demon into multiple pieces like an apple. Before Deliora's corpse could even hit the ground, it dissolved into dust. The wizard suddenly inhaled and all the water in the city that he had just used to slay Deliora disappeared down his gullet like he was the

drain in a bathtub. The wizard hit a knee and slammed his palm against the ground, "ARC OF TIME!"

Before their eyes the people of Brago saw their city rebuilt seemingly of its own accord. The wizard straightened up and took a half step back to steady himself, "Man I need a drink!" He looked around, "Now where did they go?" He disappeared and reappeared in front of Ur, Ultear, Gray and Lyon with a smile, "See Ultear? I told you I'd win." All four stared at him like he was from another planet. He grinned, "Now here's the _real_ kick in the head."

He jumped slightly and suddenly shrank. There was a flash of blue light as his clothes changed to fit him and the coat Ultear was holding shrank as well, and suddenly what had been a man looking like he was in his twenties was a boy not yet into his teens. Oby laughed and scratched the back of his head, "Nobody takes me seriously when I look my age, so I grow up a bit for tougher jobs! Still fun to be a kid though!" The four ice wizards said nothing, they just continued to stare until Oby asked, "Hey Ultear, can I have my coat back? It's kinda cold."

Ultear remembered she was holding it and handed it back to him. "Who are you?" Ur asked. Oby's smile widened slightly, "I'm Oberon Williamson, a wizard from Fairy Tail." He spun and pulled his coat back on. "You should come visit us some time!" he said over his shoulder as he started walking off, "If anyone asks, I'll be back in about two hours, maybe three. This was a detour on my way to my next job, it should be a cakewalk, but I'm going to want a drink when I get back. Water will be fine, and you all can take the credit for oh wait forgot about your leg."

Oby spun and walked back over, "If you'll sit down and melt that ice I'll do some first aid." Ur smiled and sat, "Thank you, I appreciate what are you doing?" Oby flexed his fingers which had started to glow blue, "I'm a Sky God Slayer. I have healing magic. I can't grow you a new leg, but I can stop the bleeding and purge any infection." Ur stared, "But that's Lost Magic! How do you know something like that?!" Oby frowned, "What's more important? Saving what's left of your leg or talking about my past?" Ur looked away, "Good enough." She hissed as the icy prosthetic leg she had made for herself dissolved. Oby quickly laid his glowing hands to the now blood spurting stump and the wound quickly sealed shut. Ur squirmed a little uncomfortably as Oby ran his hands up and all over her leg, getting dangerously close to some inappropriate spots as he did. Once he was done though, her leg had stopped bleeding and the burns were all gone.

"It'll still hurt," Oby declared as he stood, "There's nothing I can do about that other than recommend not putting a lot of weight on it and doing whatever makes it most comfortable, but it's a lot better than it was and I rerouted all the severed blood vessels so that they'll still function as part of your circulatory system. Might cut down on the phantom limb pain, might not. I don't know, I've never dealt with missing limbs." Ur pulled her leg up and ran her hands over it, then she jumped slightly as Oby started working on her other leg, "What are you doing?" Oby looked at her, "Isn't it obvious? I've started healing you now I'm going to finish. Now hold still." He proceeded to run his hands over nearly every inch of her, only narrowly avoiding some places that would have gotten him slapped. He still ran his magic over them, and Ur had a sneaking suspicion from

the oddly hand shaped pressure of his magic that he could still feel everything his magic touched. She let it slide though as she could tell whatever else he was doing, he was healing her at a truly remarkable rate.

He finished with her head and when he was done he patted her on top of the head with a smile, "You should be fine now. If you come to visit us in Magnolia we've got a healer who puts my magic to shame. She can probably do some things for you I can't. You're going to feel like crap for a few days probably, there's no changing the fact that you've taken a beating this evening and you're still going to feel all that fatigue, but there shouldn't be much actual pain." Ur thanked him with a slight smile. Oby smiled, "Thank me by giving Ultear lots of hugs, she really missed you." Ur smiled and pulled Ultear into a hug, "I'll certainly do that. I missed her too."

Oby turned to Gray and Lyon, "Let's see!" he reached out and laid his hands on their heads. A moment later their whole bodies were healed. Oby gave them a thumbs up, "All fixed!" Ur frowned, "Wait a minute, why did you?" "Well I really should be getting on!" Oby declared loudly with a grin, "Macao and Wakaba are probably wondering what happened to me! So I'll be back soon! Byebye!" He jumped fifty feet into the air, yelled, "MACH TEN!" and took off so fast it looked like he just disappeared. Ur grinned wryly at the spot where he had been, "Little pervert."

==Three Minutes Later==

Oby slowed to a stop and landed as the thunderous sonic boom rolled over the area. He strolled up to the imposing headquarters of the Dark Guild known as Death's Head Caucus and casually examined the rope next to the massive door labeled "Pull for service". Oby yanked the rope and what sounded like a mass of church bells rang somewhere inside.

A massive shirtless man with his entire body covered in tattoos that resembled a skeleton, no hair and a head painted like a skull answered, "Who is it?" "Message from the village," Oby replied, "I was instructed to deliver it to the master of this guild, one Benote Skelon I believe?" The massive man's eyebrows rose, "Master! It's for you!" "Send em in!" A gravelly voice yelled. The immense man ushered Oby in.

"Nice place you got here," Oby declared as the eyes of everyone in the building followed him. It was in fact far from a nice place, everything was designed to look like bones or was made from real bones. Now that he saw the inside of it, Oby realized the entire building was shaped like an upside down skull. The large castle like facade out front was the teeth, the massive terraced pit of a room he was walking down into was the brain cavity, and those two tunnels down on the left and right were the eyes. He had just come in through the nose. The ceiling was fairly high and there were chandeliers overhead graced with bits of carnage in varying states of decay and candles burning in the noses and eyes of impaled skulls, a disturbing number of which still had skin and hair on them. The big man leading him in laughed, "You got a gruesome sense o' style kid. Maybe you'll be one of us one day!" "Perhaps," Oby replied politely.

It wasn't the biggest building he'd ever been in, but it was certainly one of the most gruesome Oby thought. He paused as he saw

two people suspended in chains over a large cauldron of boiling oil in the center of the massive pit that was the central room, but he didn't pause long and kept walking. The big man led him through a crowd of people, most with skeletal tattoos and shaved heads. _Nothing like a dark guild with a theme_, Oby thought, _so easy to pick out their members_.

A moment later Oby was standing before a fairly old man with saggy skin and lots of his actual bones showing even through the tattoos all over his body. The Master of Death's Head Caucus, Benote Skelon, better known as Bones the Eviscerater, leaned forward, "Who are you?" Oby smiled, "My name is Oberon Williamson, the village sent me up with a little message for you." "Who do those miserable groveling wretches think they are sending a kid to bother me?!" Bones snarled, "Do they think I'll spare your life just because you're a child?!"

Oby smiled and pulled a pair of clawed metal gauntlets from under his coat, "No, actually they say in a great many words," He pulled his gauntlets on with a smile, "F*** you. They hired me and those two you've got dangling over the tar there to take out the trash." Macao opened his blacked eyes, "Obyâ€|runâ€|" "Speaking ofâ€|" Oby declared as the members of Death's Head Caucus stared at his audacity. Macao and Wakaba disappeared and reappeared in front of Oby on the ground, fully unchained, healed and on their unsteady feet as Oby finished, "I think it's about time we got started with that. Macao, Wakaba, you take care of Bones, I'll deal with the rest of em."

As Bones roared for the members of Death's Head Caucus to kill them, Macao and Wakaba looked over their shoulders at Oby as he turned to face the dark wizards charging down the stairs into the lowermost layer of the pit, "you sure kid?" Macao asked. "There's an awful lot of em!" Wakaba added. Oby seemed to teleport up the stairs and suddenly ever member of Death's Head Caucus between point A and point B went flying, covered in massive wounds as the sound of Oby's gauntlets slamming them away rang out across the room like a gunshot. Oby only paused for an instant to call, "Yeah, I'm sure." Macao and Wakaba swapped a glance, "He's sure."

They turned to face Bones as the dark wizard rose from his throne like chair, "Your friend may have gotten you out of the tar, but you're out the frying pan and into the fire now that you have to fight me." Macao and Wakaba slid into fighting stances, Macao igniting in purple flames with a grin, "Maybe you haven't heard, but fire's my specialty!" Wakaba casually lit a cigarette off Macao's shoulder and grinned, "You caught us by surprise earlier, but you won't beat us head on!" Macao's face twitched slightly in irritation at Wakaba's using him for a lighter.

Bones grinned, the light of the fire and his skull tattoo lending his sunken eyes a truly evil glint, "Is that so? BONE MAGIC!" A magic seal erupted under him as he crossed his arms and bone spikes erupted all over his body. He uncrossed his arms quickly and sent a volley of sharp bone spikes at the Fairy Tail wizards. Macao and Wakaba disappeared in a puff of smoke as the bone shards flew through them and Bones took a step back in surprise, "WHAT?!"

"Smoke Fake!" Wakaba called from the terrace behind him with a grin. Bones had just an instant to worry before Macao roared, "PURPLE INFERNO!" and flooded the pit with violet flames. Bones leapt upwards

out of the flames and suddenly stopped and fell, seemingly midair as he landed on something extremely hot and sticky. Macao grinned, "Purple Trap! Let him have it!" "Smoke Crush!" Wakaba called as he cut loose his spell. A barrage of pink smoke fists rained down on Bones as he struggled to free himself from Macao's sticky semisolid flames.

There was a sickening sound of bones shattering and Bones cried out in pain before going disturbingly quiet. Wakaba let up a second later and as Macao allowed the flames to dissipate he looked at his friend, "I think you might've overdone it Wakab-AHHH!" He cried out in shock and pain as a huge bone spike appeared in his shoulder. Before Wakaba could move three more spikes slammed into him and sent him toppling to the ground. Bones leapt up out of the pit and towered over them completely unscathed, "You two thought you could beat me? ME?! I AM BONES THE EVISCERATER! MASTER OF DEATH'S HEAD CAUCUS!"

He suddenly went flying as a small form with glowing white fists sheathed in a dark blue aura appeared between him and Macao and Wakaba, "And _we're_ Fairy Tail!" Cana yelled as she sprang after him, her Crash magic flaring as Oby's empowering spell lent her the ability to fly. Oby casually started pulling spikes out of Macao and Wakaba as Cana proceeded to use Bones the Eviscerater for a hacky sack punching bag. "What's Cana doing here?!" Macao asked in horror as Oby worked on Wakaba. "Oh she's been following us since we left," Oby told him nonchalantly, "She wanted to come along but you guys wouldn't let her remember? She's not the kind of girl that'll take no for an answer! Don't worry, she was busy busting out the prisoners down that tunnel over there while you two kept them busy out here with your Christmas ham imitations."

Macao finally managed to climb back to his feet, "We've gotta help her!" Oby laughed, "Did you forget who her daddy is? No solid target can withstand the Clive family Crash magic, and nothing's going to be able to touch her while my empowerment spell's on her. Let her take care of this guys, it'll do her confidence good, and imagine how proud Gildarts will be! Besides, I can-" his image flickered for a second and Bones, who had been about to get the upper hand, found himself suddenly wrapped in magic chains and slammed into the ground so hard his bone armor shattered. "Intervene whenever I need to," Oby finished. "Obyyy!" Cana whined as Bones slumped over unconscious, "You said you'd let me beat him!"

Oby smiled over his shoulder at her as she floated down, "Oh? I seem to recall saying I'd let you _fight_ him, I don't recall saying I wouldn't help if you needed it." Cana crossed her arms and huffed, "Stupid jerk." Oby smiled, "If helping my friend makes me a stupid jerk, then I'll gladly be the stupidest of jerks to keep you safe." Cana smiled slightly, and Oby continued patching up Wakaba, but Wakaba and Macao couldn't help but notice that he was smiling too.

Then they both started in horror as time seemed to slow down. Bones seemed ten feet tall as he lunged over the edge of the terrace with murder in his eyes and a huge bone javelin aimed right at Cana. Then Cana spun and slugged him with her Crash magic so hard he flew backwards a good twenty meters and left a crater in the stone staircase down from the door. "And it looks to me like _that_ was the final blow," Oby added as Bones twitched feebly, "So you did beat him." Cana smiled brightly, "Yeah, guess I did." Macao and Wakaba

stared in shock. "Hey Macao?" "Yeah?" "Kids are scary." "Yep."

Oby grinned and Cana blushed like that was the best compliment in the world, "Awww, thank you!"

==Afternoon, Three Days Later==

"Hey guys we're back!" Macao called as he, Wakaba, Oby and Cana strolled in. "And we brought friends!" Oby added. "So this is a guild," Ur said with a smile, "It seems like a nice place. Awfully hot though." "I feel fine," Gray declared only for everyone to point out that his clothes were once again missing. Oby flickered for a second and handed Gray his clothes with a laugh, "Come on guys, let's go meet- oh hi Master!" Makarov looked the ice wizards up and down and then looked at Oby, "You're not going to bring new recruits in after every mission are you?" Oby shook his head, "Nah, only when there's cute girls involved." Ultear blushed, "Aw!" Gray and Lyon shot him identical dirty looks as Cana snorted irritably and muttered, "Jerk." Oby just chuckled as Makarov stroked his chin, "Fair enough."

Ur raised an eyebrow, "Who said we're joining? We only came because Oby said you had somebody who could help with my leg." Makarov blinked, "Your leg?" Ur knelt and pulled up her pants leg to reveal the icy prosthetic and Makarov started, "Oh, of course! We'll go see Porlyusica right away. I'm sorry, I didn't realize you were injured." Ur smiled slightly, "I'm not injured any more. Oby was able to seal my leg up pretty good, but I'd still like to see about a prosthetic that doesn't melt constantly in warm weather." Makarov nodded with a smile as he led her off towards the East Forest, "Of course, of course. I do hope you'll stay afterwards and enjoy a meal or two with us. I'd feel terrible sending you home after you just got here."

Ur smiled, "Well, maybe one night." Then she looked over her shoulder with a bright smile, "Behave you three, I'll be back soon!"

==Three Hours Later==

Ultear sat with Gray and Lyon as they waited for Ur to come out of surgery. Oby had brought them along when Makarov called him to assist Porlyusica in attaching Ur's new prosthetic. That had been an hour ago. Ultear shifted uneasily. She had so recently been on the verge of giving up on ever seeing her mother again because of these two, it felt so strange that she was to be their friend now.

"So, we, haven't really gotten to talk yet," Gray started. "Oby told us how he met you," Lyon said quietly. Ultear's heart skipped a beat, he had told them that he had met her on the verge of running away because of them?! "He said you were about to run away and never see Master Ur again because of us," Gray said as he looked towards the curtains that comprised the "operating room". "That you were afraid Master had been trying to replace you by taking us on," Lyon added as he looked away.

Ultear flinched and then Lyon went on, "I'll admit, for a while I thought that too when I found out about you. Then she took on Gray and I asked her, 'Why did you take him on? You don't need that punk, you've already got me to replace your daughter'." He snorted and rubbed the back of his head as Gray and Ultear stared at him, "I don't think I've ever seen Master Ur that angry. I know I've never

gotten slapped that hard. She told me that was the most ridiculous thing she'd ever heard, that nothing could ever replace her daughter." He shot a glance at Ultear out the corner of his eye with a slight smile, "Now that I've met you, I see what she meant."

Ultear blinked and was immediately a vivid pink. Gray's head whipped around, "Oh sure! Go right ahead and use what we agreed would be an attempt to help her settle back in as an excuse to hit on her! Have some decency ya pervert!" "Says the guy in his underwear!" Lyon snapped back. Gray leapt up, "AH! _When did that happen?!_" "Keep your clothes on man!" Lyon barked as Ultear realized his own shirt was suddenly gone. "Why the hell did you take your shirt off?!" Gray exclaimed.

"So I can make muscly poses to impress Ultear," Lyon declared as he struck a pose with a grin. A moment later clothes went flying everywhere as they started wrestling and in less than a minute they were both in nothing but their underwear as Ultear suddenly asked, "Oh boys, can you help me find my top?" They both froze, looked at her, realized she was indeed topless, and had identical massive nosebleeds as Ultear laughed so hard she almost cried.

"WILL YOU KIDS SHUT UP?!" Porlyusica exclaimed as she erupted out from behind the curtains, "WE'RE TRYING TO DO SURGERY IN HERE! AND FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON!" Things were quiet after that, but the ice was broken, and by the time Ur woke up the next morning, they were all three crashed out in the living room in a happy dogpile with Ultear on top as Oby snored in a nearby chair.

Ur smiled, "Is everyone at Fairy Tail like this?" she asked Makarov and Porlyusica quietly. Porlyusica nodded, "It's a wonderful place. I don't like humans, but Fairy Tail wizards, for all their rambunctious reckless noisy nonsense are still the best people I know." Makarov smiled, "Awâ€|" Porlyusica cast a sideways glare at him, "Don't get a swelled head ya old coot."

Makarov's head was suddenly the size of a beach ball, "I have no idea what you're talking about." Porlyusica snorted as Ur laughed and thought, _Maybe this'll be a good place for the four of us after allâ€|_

3. Chapter 3: Fairy King & Wizard Guilds 3

Chapter 3-Fairy King and Wizard Guilds Three

==Four Months Later==

Oby sat back and glared at the floor as Makarov described the situation the Magic Council had reported and declared, "I know this will be dangerous, but it is our duty as a guild to help put a stop to this madness. I would like to request volunteers to assist the coalition forces and the military in the destruction of the R-Systems." Oby rose, the foul taste of the magic his former guild had sought fresh in his mouth, "I'm in."

Ur, recently promoted to S-Class, nodded, Makarov hummed and Gildarts raised an eyebrow. He looked at Makarov, "Master, you can't seriously be considering letting him go, he's just a kid!" Ur looked at

Gildarts, "He's the kid who killed a demon the size of a mountain and rebuilt an entire city in less than five minutes." Gildarts raised an eyebrow, "Seriously?" Ur smiled slyly, "You think I'd be impressed by just any old hunk with slicked back hair in a cape?" Gildarts blinked in confusion, "Well no but, wait a minute!" Makarov nodded, "Very well, Oby, you're in. Anyone else?"

Gildarts tapped Makarov on the shoulder, "Ok, I'm in. I'm curious to see what the kid can do now." Makarov looked at him then turned to Ur, "Wanna sting anyone else's pride into joining this outing?" Ur howled with laughter as Gildarts blushed crimson and stammered out some nervous protests. Makarov turned back to the assembly, "Well we've got two wizards going now. We need to send at least seven, and I'd like to send at least a few more of our more experienced members. Anyone else or are we going to have to draw straws?" Cana quickly volunteered and Makarov agreed on the condition she be on the same team as Gildarts.

Lexus raised his mug with an over the shoulder grin, "Count me in! Can't let the kids and Gildarts catch all the glory!" Freed, Bickslow and Evergreen, the newly formed "Thunder Legion", all immediately raised their hands, "We're in too!" Makarov nodded, "Very well, that brings us up to six. We need at least one more, and I'd like to have at least one experienced member to every younger member. Come now, don't be timid!"

Ur stepped forward with a smile, "I'm in. Ultear, Gray, Lyon, you three stay here." All three tried to protest and Ur sighed, "Oh fine. You can come too, but stay safe alright?" "Okay!" the recently dubbed Blizzard Siblings chorused. Makarov counted on his fingers, and then frowned. He suddenly pointed, "Macao, Wakaba, Reedus! You just volunteered!" Macao Wakaba and Reedus all flinched slightly and then Makarov scratched his chin and thought for a moment.

Then he nodded, "The teams will be divided as follows! Team 1 will be composed of Ur and the Blizzard Siblings. Team 2 will be Gildarts and Cana. Team 3 will be Reedus and Freed. Team 4, Wakaba and Evergreen. Team 5, Macao and Bickslow. Teams 6 and 7, Lexus, Oby, I'm trusting you two to take care of yourselves. If you go out there and die, I'll kill you!" Lexus and Oby blinked and then laughingly agreed that they'd take care of themselves.

>==Two Days Later==<p>

Oby kicked back at the meeting point where he had been instructed to meet the representatives from Lamia Scale, Phantom Lord and Blue Pegasus. He had aged himself up for the meeting, no need to let himself be underestimated by his allies he reasoned.

He was on the verge of dozing off when the first cold rain drop hit his head. He blinked and looked up, the sky that had been a clear blue earlier was now filling rapidly with dark clouds and the rain was starting to intensify. "Well," he mused with a lopsided grin, "Looks like Phantom's here. Must be the Lockser family. Rain, rain comin my way."

Several minutes later he sensed three powerful magic signatures behind him. "Reyna, Elena and Juvia Lockser of Phantom Lord I presume?" He asked as he rose and turned to face the three women. "Very astute of you," the elderly matriarch of the Lockser family declared, "Although I am curious to know how you know our names. Who

are you young man?" Oby bowed slightly, "I am Oberon Williamson of Fairy Tail. It is an honor to meet such a renowned master of water magic," Then he smiled at Juvia and her cousin Elena, "And a delight to meet you two as well. Do you share your grandmother's abilities?"

"Why do you just assume I'm their grandmother?!" Reyna demanded. Oby straightened, "I do not presume Madam, I heard you talking as you approached." Reyna looked at the rain around them, something which should have drowned their quiet talking, "Those are some impressive ears you have." Oby smiled, "Just a result of my magic. My hearing is actually not the sharpest without it."

Reyna raised an eyebrow, "And what magic do you have? You seem to know about us already, I would assume you know our magic as well. It's only fair that we should know yours." Oby smiled, "As you wish. I am a God Slayer, similar to a Dragon Slayer, but of a higher caliber. Even Dragon Slayers of the same element cannot devour my elemental attacks and I have slightly different abilities from Dragon Slayers of my elements. Since I know you would've asked I have three God Slayer elements instead of just one, I am a Sea, Sky and recently Lightning God Slayer. I just roll it all into one and call myself a Storm God Slayer. I also know Barrier Magic, Heavenly Body Magic and a lost magic known as the Arc of Time which allows me to manipulate time however I please."

Reyna raised an eyebrow, "I did not know Master Makarov had such a wizard." Oby shrugged, "I'm rather new." Reyna looked around, "So if you can manipulate time, then can you see the future? If you can, then who will arrive next?" Oby looked around, "Blue Pegasus, represented by Ichiya Vandalay Kotobuki, Ren Akatsuki, Hibiki Lates and Karin Lilica. They will be coming from that direction," he pointed to the east, "and Lamia Scale will arrive shortly afterwards from the opposite direction, represented by Jura Neekis, a very powerful earth wizard."

He looked back at them, "Quite a balanced team we have. I'm glad the other guilds take this as seriously as we do." Reyna nodded, "What they are doing is so abominable that I didn't want to bring my granddaughters along. If they weren't so stubborn I would've left them at the Guild Hall." "It was much the same at our guild. Our two S Class wizards wanted to leave their children behind as well. If I hadn't been S Class before I joined Fairy Tail, I don't think Master Makarov would've allowed me to come at all, let alone by myself."

Reyna raised an eyebrow, "You were a member of another guild before Fairy Tail? Which one?" Oby looked down, "That's a long painful story I'd rather not get into if you don't mind." Reyna nodded, "Of course, my apologies. It just seems strange to me that I would not have heard of such a powerful wizard." Oby smiled, "Well there is a reason for that, but I'll wait until after the others have arrived to show you."

"Well you shall not wait long!" Ichiya declared as he walked up, "Ichiya Vandalay Kotobuki of Blue Pegasus, with my students Ren Akatsuki and Hibiki Lates, as well as our lovely Karen Lilica." Oby had to stoop slightly to shake Ichiya's hand, "A pleasure to make your acquaintance Mister Ichiya. I am Oberon of Fairy Tail." "Oberon as in the Fairy King?" Hibiki asked in surprise with a raised

eyebrow. Oby straightened and looked at him, "Fairy King? That's a bit of a presumptuous title. I haven't even caught the promotion to S-Class yet, I'd hardly count myself the king of the guild." Hibiki shook his head, "No the Fairy King Oberon is a character in a play called A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Oberon raised an eyebrow, "Really?" He looked down and laughed slightly, "Wonder if that's why they named me Oberon." He placed a hand across his eyes, "Give me a moment please." By the time Jura walked up five minutes later, Oby had strode over to a tree and as the others noticed Jura walking up, Oby slammed a magic laced punch into the tree so hard he nearly broke it in two. He ripped his fist sideways through the tree and sent it toppling to the ground which jumped slightly as the massive tree hit. Jura blinked in surprise as everyone else stared. He leaned over to Reyna, and asked quietly, "Excuse me ma'am, why is that man so angry?"

Reyna shook her head, "I don't know, he's had his eyes covered for the last several minutes after Hibiki said something about a play and then he just suddenly went and punched the tree. I don't know what set him off." "What set me off," Oby declared in a dead voice without looking, "was watching the death of my parents again." He turned to face them and snapped the fingers of the hand he had knocked the tree down with. Before their eyes the other wizards saw the tree reassemble itself. "You were right Hibiki," Oby said quietly, "My parents did name me after that play. I was too young to remember much before the night Deliora destroyed my hometown. Turns out my parents were the heads of an acting troupe, and that was their favorite play. Seeing them again opened the wound back up in a rather painful manner."

He sighed, "And now as promised, the reason Master Makarov was reluctant to let me join this mission as well as the reason you have not heard of me Madam Reyna." He glowed brightly for a brief instant, and then his age had regressed to its natural state: a boy barely into puberty rather than a grown man. The cold stern look on his face didn't change though, and as he opened his eyes to look at them, he looked fierce to the point of murderous, almost like he was daring someone to say he wasn't fit to be there because of his age.

"I'm sure you're wondering if I am inexperienced in battle and I assure you I am not," Oby declared, "I have already scouted the tower and ascertained the number of our enemies, two hundred fifty seven, forty demon soldiers and approximately a hundred and thirty small guard beasts. There are only three with significant magic capabilities, none of whom should pose much trouble to any of our team's senior members or myself, and the number and identities of the four hundred captives we must free as well as the necessary medical procedures for each of them. I have also determined the best way to neutralize the defensive enchantments laid around the perimeter of the site and I can easily neutralize them when we begin our advance. I will also see to the evacuation of the captives before the fighting starts."

Everyone stared at him. "How are you going to evacuate that many prisoners?" Jura asked skeptically. Oby waved his hand and the entire forest suddenly collapsed into a state of decay. As the other wizards gawked he swung his hand back the other way and the forest erupted back to life. "My Arc of Time magic allows me to control time," Oby declared, "That includes stopping time. Honestly, there is a strong

possibility that I could flatten all of the towers, kill and bury every member of that cult, evacuate all of the prisoners and maybe even put them back wherever they were snatched from healed back to perfect health, all in the breadth of an instant."

He crossed his arms, "The only reason I haven't done that already is because I wouldn't be able to use my Time Magic again for approximately the next two years, and while it is possible I could succeed, stopping time's not easy. The longest I've ever stopped it for is a few days, and I was totally drained afterwards. The fatigue and stress of maintaining such a tremendous power output over such a period would likely kill or render me comatose before the job was done. Such extreme measures are unnecessary, so I won't be resorting to them. I wouldn't bother with my Arc of Time at all if I weren't concerned about the cult trying to use the prisoners as hostages and human shields. We'll be able to crush them easily once the prisoners are safe."

The other wizards traded glances and then nodded. "Since you seem to have all the answers, how do you recommend we proceed?" Oby smiled slightly, "I was hoping you'd ask."

==One Hour Later==

The first the cultists knew of the impending attack was their defensive enchantments, weapons and slaves all disappearing. The next thing they knew was that the ground was shaking.

"You're clear!" Oby called as his adult form flickered and a massive pile of weapons appeared next to him. Jura grinned as he approached the massive structure, "And now it's my turn." He assumed a fighting stance and curled all but his index and middle fingers on each hand into a fist. With a thrust of one hand he conjured "Iron Rock Wall!" pillars around the back side of the tower. Then he quickly hit a knee and slammed a hand into the ground. A golden magic seal appeared for a brief moment, "Wild Rock Jumping!" True to the name, the ground beneath the tower began to shake, buck and jump beneath it, setting the whole thing shaking and large portions of it crashing down.

The demon soldiers were the first ones out, swiftly followed by panicking cultists. "Now Locksers!" Hibiki called through his Archive link. On a nearby cloud top, the Lockser women joined hands, "Unison Raid! SKYFALL!" Before any of the cultists knew what was happening, a hailstorm of boulder sized ice chunks was raining down on the tower and the demon soldiers. Ren pouted as he casually aimed the falling ice with his Air magic, "This is way too easy." Then he grinned slightly, "And I love it."

The demon soldiers dropped like flies and as the last one splattered beneath a giant ice chunk, Ichiya and Karen stepped into position next to Ren and Jura. Ichiya raised his hand to the lid of the massive wheeled cauldron he had prepared, "Ready?" Karen nodded, "Open! Gate of the Ram! Aries!" The Celestial Spirit Aries popped out of nowhere next to her, "You called?" "I need you to get up on top of those rocks around the tower and put everyone inside it to sleep!" Karen demanded as the last of the ice fell from the sky. "I'll try," Aries said timidly before running off as quick as she could. She leapt an incredible distance from the ground to the top of Jura's rock wall and began running around it, blasting pink magic fluff into the massive holes Jura and the Locksers had made in the tower.

A moment later Ichiya lifted the lid off his cauldron, "NOW!" As the air hit the noxious liquid in the cauldron it vaporized into a pungent knockout gas, which Ren quickly blew into the oncoming crowd of beasts and cultists. The cultists dropped quickly, but the eyeless beasts plowed right on, the gas seeming to only drive them into a frenzy. Then as Jura got ready to fight the oncoming hoard of beasts Aries' shriek of pain rang out over the roars of the beasts and a moment later a large wizard wearing the robes of the cultists walked out onto the top of the rock wall.

He raised a staff over his head and slammed it into the stone. A powerful gust erupted out away from him before Jura could send him toppling to the ground and blew Ichiya's knockout gas away. Then another wizard ran out of the tower and all the weapons Oby had confiscated suddenly flew back to the now quickly recovering cultists.

Oby sighed as the others took a concerted horrified step back, "Oh well. It was a good plan. Time for plan B. Beat em to a pulp." He stepped forward and inhaled, "Storm God _HOOOOOWL!"_ As he said 'howl' a massive cyclone of wind water and lightning erupted from his mouth and blasted over half of the cultists and their beasts back into the ruins of the tower. It was the half in the middle, and those left standing suddenly looked very unsure of themselves as much of what was left of the tower collapsed. Oby pulled on his metal gauntlets, "Hibiki, would you call the Locksers down? We might need them for containment purposes."

Hibiki nodded, "I'm on it." Oby looked up at Jura, "Jura, you ready?" Jura nodded, "Very. If you would take the ones on the left, I will defeat those on the right." The two wizards were suddenly shrouded in blazing auras of magic power and launched into the remaining cultists. Ichiya turned to Ren and Hibiki as cultists and guard beasts went flying like leaves in a tornado, "Pay close attention men, this is a fine example of master combat wizards at work." "Yessir!" Hibiki and Ren chorused.

"You should watch less and get in on the action," Reyna scolded as she strode up, "Juvia go right, Elena left. I'll deal with that wizard that re-armed these vile men." The three Locksers took off as raging torrents, and in Elena's case a miniature blizzard. "Quickly Hibiki! Warn Oberon and Jura that the Lockers are entering the fray! Ren go after Juvia and protect her! Hibiki and Karen join Oberon and Elena on the left. I will go and back up Lady Reyna!"

Ren rushed off immediately, Hibiki not far behind him as Karen drew a second key and Ichiya drew a vial of potion, "Power Parfum!" "Open Gate of the Lion! Leo!" Ichiya grew to tremendous size and charged after Elena as Leo appeared, "Looks like a fight. If we win do I get a kiss?" Karen sighed, "I'll think about it. Now go hit something." Leo grinned, "As you wish!" He hurtled into the fray, blazing golden light appearing around his hands as he laid into the cultists.

Oby looked around as Elena and Hibiki blew over a dozen of the cultists back and ran up to him, "Well it appears the party's getting started. Welcome to the-" He discharged a lightning bolt and fried a cultist that was trying to escape into the woods, "to the fun zone," he finished, "Hibiki would you mind putting up a shield on the left flank to keep them from running off? This-" he zapped another one,

"running away thing is starting to annoy me." Hibiki nodded, "Of course!" and ran off towards the left flank just as Leo ran up, "Hey there! Strategy meeting?" Oby nodded, "Something like that. You need to get back to Karen, she's going to run out of magic power in about three minutes and be quite helpless. I'll come summon you and Aries once she's out of power if that's alright with you."

Leo raised an eyebrow and looked rather taken aback, "Um, okay? We're really not supposed to answer the summons of anyone but our wizards, but I guess if it's to help her then we could answer a call just this once." Oby nodded, "Good, then get over there before that beasty eats her." Leo's eyes widened and he whirled, quickly charging as he spotted one of the guard beasts scuttling towards Karin. Oby turned to Elena, "Elena, now that we've gotten our allies out of the firing line, would you mind assisting me in a dual breath attack? I think we'll make quite a dent in their forces that way." Elena raised an eyebrow, "Sure."

They turned and inhaled in unison and then, "Storm God-" "Ice Dragon-" "HOOOWL!" "ROOOAR!" The following maelstrom of wind water ice and lightning did a bit more than "make a dent". Nothing caught in the massive attack ever got back up, and that was everything in a hundred meter wide and half kilometer long swath of destruction. Oby smiled at their handiwork, "And now I'm going to go see what happens when I summon a Celestial Spirit. Should be interesting. I'll be back in a moment." He suddenly flew off towards where Karen had been knocked over and was about to be skewered by a few cultists who had snuck away from the melee just in time to see Leo disappear as Karen's magic power ran out.

Oby casually fried the cultists with a blast of lightning and landed next to Karen. "Excuse me Karen, may I borrow your keys for a moment? Leo said he'd answer a call from me so he could protect you even if you were to run out of power." Karen was still in a half stunned state of terror and numbly handed over the two keys to Aries and Leo without a word. Oby accepted them with a smile and then swung them in a cross shape, "Open Gates of the Ram and Lion! Aries and Leo!"

Aries and Leo appeared alright, but they were different. Now they were absolutely glowing with power. Leo looked over his shoulder at Oby, "Wow, I could tell you were powerful, but I didn't think you were this strong!" Oby grinned, "Thanks." Karen stared in shock as her two most powerful spirits radiated with power in quantities she would never have imagined they had. Had they really had this much power all the time she'd known them and never used it?! Aries smiled at Oby, "If you can get your friends out of the way I can knock out everyone else with one hit now."

Oby raised an eyebrow as his smile grew, "Awesome!" He turned and raised his hands, suddenly Jura, Juvia, Elena, Reyna, Ren, and Ichiya were all rapidly lifted high into the air, "Now Aries!" Aries stepped forward with a grin, "WOOL BLAST!" An absolute tidal wave of her pink magic fluff washed over the remaining cultists and beasts, instantly knocking them all soundly unconscious. Aries turned to Oby and the others with a big happy smile as Oby set them down safely away from the wool, "They should be unconscious for several days. Leo can set them on fire if you want." Oby smiled, "I don't think that'll be necessary. Thank you very much for your help." "Don't mention it," Leo grinned. Then he looked at Karen, "See ya next time gorgeous!"

Then he and Aries flashed brightly for a moment and were gone.

Oby grinned at the two keys in his hand, "Man, I've gotta get me one of these!" He handed them back to Karen, "If you ever decide to part with them, I'd be delighted to have them." Karen glared and snatched them away angrily without a word and Oby raised an eyebrow as she turned and stormed off, _Was it something I said?_ His brows furrowed for a moment and he gazed into her past and future. He rubbed his eyes thinking, _Yeesh what a bitchâ€¦I'm gonna have to do something about her one day._ _I can't let them suffer like that._ Then he opened his eyes in surprise.

He looked at the fading sea of magical fluff with a slight smile, "Fairy Tail must really be getting to me. Not so long ago I would've torched them all and enjoyed it." He turned to Hibiki, "Before you go comfort your grumpy girlfriend would you mind calling up the army and telling them we've got the cultists ready to be taken into custody?" Hibiki paused with a puzzled look, "She's not my girlfriend?" Oby raised an eyebrow and looked away, "Oops. My bad." Hibiki blinked and then he visibly remembered that Oby could see the future and grinned from ear to ear, "Thanks!"

==That Night==

"Sho why did a wisherd of your shtrength join a bunsh *hic* bunsh o nobodies like Fairy Tail?" Reyna asked Oby across the table as Elena face palmed in embarrassment and Juvia apologized silently for her grandmother's rudeness as fast and profusely as she could. "You coulda joined any guild but you shoze Fairy Tail. Why not Phantom? You woulda been welcome, we're the shrongest guild in Fiore. Master Shosay's gonna flip when he finds out a wisherd like you ish wif Fairy Tail inshtead of us."

Oby smiled, "Why am I with Fairy Tail? Makarov found me after I was kicked out of my previous guild and took me in. Fairy Tail pulled me off a dark path that I would've barreled on down without a second thought for the rest of my life. Other than that, it was pretty much just the first place I came to. It's a good place, so that's where I've stayed." He chuckled, "After all, who knows? Fairy Tail might surpass Phantom one day."

Reyna shot him a furious stink-eye, "Nonshensh. Mashter Shoshay would never shtand for it. Hish pride would drive him nutsh if he were in second playsh. He'd shtomp Makarov like a bug before he'd ever shtand for shecond playsh." Everyone else got very still as Reyna took another hearty swig, "You think he would start a guild war over it?" Oby asked quietly. "Of course he would!" Reyna declared loudly as she slammed her mug down on the table, "He's an arrogant self absorbed bossy slimy underhanded cowardly he's right behind me isn't he?"

"Yep," Elena declared dryly. "We're so sorry Master, she didn't mean it!" Juvia cried, "Granny Reyna's just crabby when she drinks!" Jose Porla, the Master of Phantom Lord, kept forcing a smile, "I know Juvia. I've known your granny for a long time, and I'm sure that's far from the worst she's ever called me. I let it slide because she's such a good wizard." He straightened back up, still smiling that fake smile, "Now what's this nonsense about a guild war?"

"Madam Reyna seems to be of the opinion that when Fairy Tail catches

up to and eventually surpasses Phantom Lord you will be driven into a fit of jealous rage and seek to destroy us," Oby declared calmly. Jose blinked, "Well I certainly would be upset, but I don't think I'd start a guild war over it. We would just have to strive harder to be the best. Reyna tends to exaggerate a little when she's had too much to drink." Everyone but Oby and Reyna sighed with relief, and then Jose asked, "If I may ask though, what brought on this conversation? I would've expected you to be celebrating your success today! All those filthy cultists defeated in less than an hour and not a single one of their captives hurt in the process? You lot are the talk of Fiore!"

"What brought it on Jose," Reyna said over her shoulder with no small amount of sass, "Is that this boy Makarov sent is the sole reason we were able to be so successful today! He evacuated all the captives in the blink of an eye! He uses four kinds of lost magic plus Heavenly Body and Barrier magics, he was able to summon two Zodiac Spirits at the same time like it was nothing, and he's barely a teenager! If Makarov's got a crop of kids like this then Fairy Tail very well might surpass us in a few years!" Jose looked very uncomfortable for a moment and then he forced a smile, "I'm not worried. We still have you Reyna, as well as the rest of the Element Four, and we have Elena and Juvia and all the other kids too. We'll be fine." "I wouldn't bet on it," Reyna grumbled into her drink.

There was a moment of awkward silence and then Ichiya stood on the bench, "Enough of this gloomy talk! Master Jose is right! This is a time for celebration! Today we rid this land of a terrible blight upon its people and all across the kingdom our friends have been doing the same! Come! Let us dance the dance of life and victory!" "Well said," Jose declared. Before Oby could open his mouth to ask Elena to dance Ren beat him to it. Oby smiled and rose, "Miss Juvia, would you care to dance?" Juvia blinked and looked at Reyna who shooed her towards the dance floor, "Go on Juvia, you mustn't be so timid child!" Juvia nodded, "Okay." She stood and accepted Oby's hand with a shy smile, "I'd love to dance."

Oby led her out onto the dance floor and they started dancing a slow dance. "I'm sorry," Juvia said quietly, "I know you wanted to dance with Ellie instead of me." Oby blinked and then frowned, "Now what would give you a silly idea like that?" Juvia looked up wide eyed with surprise and Oby laid his forehead against hers, "Just because Elena's older than you doesn't make her better. And for the record," He grinned, "You're a lot cuter than Elena."

He stepped back and gently spun her before pulling her back to him with a smile, "Don't ever let anyone tell you you're anything less than the best Juvia. You're already a beautiful and powerful water wizard, and take it from the guy who can see the future, you're only going to get stronger and prettier as time goes on. Whatever guy manages to steal your heart is going to be a lucky man indeed." Juvia blushed and looked away with a big smile, "Stop it you big flatterer." Oby snorted, "Juvia I don't hand out compliments lightly, if I say something, I mean it. I have a lot of tricks up my sleeves, flattery isn't one of them."

Juvia looked into his eyes, "Can, can Juvia be your girlfriend?" Oby chuckled sadly, "I wish we could do that Juvia." Juvia's face fell slightly and then Oby elaborated with a gentle smile, "I can see a much better man than me waiting in your future, and he's actually a

good friend of mine. I won't steal his future bride's first kiss." Juvia's breath caught and she was wide eyed with shock as Oby pulled her into a hug with a smile, "But that doesn't mean I won't take a hug."

Juvia smiled and hugged him back and a moment later, "Can you tell me who it is?" Oby smiled and shook his head, "No that would spoil the surprise. And besides, the future's not set in stone. I have an idea of who it might be, and I suspect it will be one of two, but which of the two is up to you Juvia, and don't let my shoddy fortunetelling get you all hung up on something that hasn't happened. Live life to the fullest, and I know that one day you'll have guys falling all over themselves to be yours."

Juvia smiled and shyly kissed him on the cheek, "Thanks, I needed that." Oby smiled brightly, "Anything for a friend."

4. Chapter 4: Oby vs Gildarts!

Chapter 4 " Oby vs. Gildarts!

==Three Months Later==

"You're sure eyeing the request board mighty hard," Nab declared as Oby stared intensely at the board, then he smiled "I'm glad somebody else understands how hard it is to pick one." "Actually Nab," Oby replied, "I'm scoping the possible outcomes of every one of these jobs as well as determining who I should take with me for each mission to obtain the optimal results. I can pick one for you as well if you'd like." Nab blinked, "Um, ok?" Oby turned back to the board and his image flickered. Suddenly he was holding a job flyer out to Nab, "Your knowledge of horror novels will serve you well on this one. A well known horror author is seeking a consultant to assist in building a house of horrors as a tourist attraction. I think you will enjoy it."

Nab took the flyer in surprise, "Wow, this one's been here for weeks and I never would've guessed it was a good one for me!" Oby smiled without taking his eyes away from the board, "Guess it's a good thing I was here today eh?" His hand suddenly flickered out and took one of the fliers, "This one looks good." He turned and whistled, "Hey Master, I'm gonna take this book stealing gig in Shirotsume. Nab's taking the consultation job in Elmtown." Everyone looked at him in shock as the words "Nab's taking the job" left his mouth. Nab looked slightly nervous as his chances of getting out of it dwindled to nothing.

Makarov nodded, "Very well, are you going to take anyone with you?" Oby looked around and then shook his head, "No, it doesn't pay much and doesn't sound very hard. With my Arc of Time I'll be able to get in and out before anyone knows I was there. Should be a piece of cake." Master Makarov nodded, "Well be careful anyway." Oby grinned on his way out the door, "Will do boss man! Gildarts will ya quick ogling Ur's butt and ask her out already!" Ur, Ultear, Cana, Gray and Lyon who were all sitting in a line at the bar, immediately spewed what they were drinking and Gildarts leapt up in embarrassment and started spouting fervent and vigorous denials that he had been doing any such thing. Oby just laughed as he suddenly disappeared midstride.

==Twenty Minutes Later, Shirotsume==

Oby rapped on the door of the small house in his adult form. A man with graying hair and a small neat mustache opened the door, "Yes?" Oby held up the flier, "Mr. Melon, I'm a wizard from Fairy Tail. I came to see about your request?" Mr. Melon blinked in surprise, "Oh! Yes of course! Please come in!" Oby stepped in and Mr. Melon showed him to the table before sitting down across from him, "I really can't thank you enough, I know ten thousand jewel is such a small reward, but this means a lot to me, so I'm very thankful you accepted."

Oby smiled, "Actually Mr. Melon, I only stopped by before going up to Everlue's to tell you that I'll be doing this one at no charge to you." Mr. Melon blinked, "What? Why? I mean I'm very grateful butâ€¦" "Simply put Mr. Melon, Everlue is a scum bag who I'd enjoy putting behind bars even if I weren't getting paid. I also strongly suspect him of being in possession of something I want which I hope to relieve him of. Helping you out is just an added bonus," he smiled, "I'll get that book and be back in about oh, three minutes."

Mr. Melon and his wife stared, "Three minutes?" Oby rose, "Yes, one minute to walk out the door, one to walk back in, and one to hand you the book. Don't believe me just watch." He walked out the door and stopped time as he casually flew off towards Everlue Manor. He landed inside the gate and was immediately almost blown back over it. A massive mountainous gorilla of a woman with pink hair in a maid's uniform had erupted out of the ground in front of him. "Do you have an appointment?" she rumbled. Oby straightened up, "No. Although I am curious to know how you are able to circumvent my Time Stop." The massive woman crossed her arms, "If you do not have an appointment then please leave. I am able to circumvent your time magic because I am a Celestial Spirit."

Oby back flipped up onto the garden wall, "And which one are you?" The massive woman looked up at him, "I am Virgo the Maiden." Oby smiled as he sat down, "Well Virgo, may I ask who is your wizard?" "I am contracted to Duke Everlue," Virgo replied. "And what would I have to do in order to sever that contract?" Oby asked. "A Celestial Spirit's contract is severed when their wizard is incarcerated or killed, or if they willingly sever it themselves," Virgo replied, "Why do you ask?"

Oby smiled, "Well I once summoned Aries and Leo to help a comrade. I was extremely impressed with their power and I decided I wanted a Celestial Spirit partner of my own. When I found out Everlue has a Zodiac Key, I came up here to acquire it." "Interesting," Virgo replied, "but I am afraid I cannot let you take it. My orders are to defend the Master, and I will carry out my orders." Oby rose from his perch, "I have my own mission, and that is to retrieve a book in his possession. I will carry out my mission, you may try to stop me if you feel you must, but I ask that you not hold it against me later."

Virgo raised a hand, "I will protect my wizard!" A blast of pink light erupted away from her palm and demolished the garden wall. Oby took to the air, glowing brightly, "I'm sorry Virgo, but I won't let you stop me." He moved too fast to see and slammed a wind blast into Virgo hard enough to knock her through the wall behind her, which was pierced clean through by a perfectly round hole that appeared an

instant before she flew through it, allowing her to flip midair and skid an unharmed landing. Oby shot through after her and met her massive fist with his own armored fist as she leapt to engage him.

Virgo was incredibly strong and actually managed to stop Oby midair. Oby landed and they began to grapple. "You will not harm the master!" Virgo declared angrily. "I'm sorry Virgo," Oby repeated, "But you won't stop me! Storm God Hammer!" The following blast of black wind water and lightning was so powerful that Virgo went flying backwards, her arms disintegrating into golden light. Oby watched her dissolve back to the Celestial Spirit World sadly, "I'll make this up to you Virgo." Virgo smiled faintly, and as she finally vanished, Oby could've sworn he heard her say thank you.

==Twelve Time Stopped Hours (An Instant For Everyone Else)
Later==

As a stack of papers detailing Everlue's numerous criminal dealings appeared on a desk in the Magic Council Enforcement Unit's main office, Everlue appeared tied up in a cell, and Oby reappeared at the Melons' house and walked in, the book called Daybreak in hand. "Mr. Melon, your father's final work." Mr. Melon accepted the book in shock, "How did youâ€¦" Oby raised a finger, "Ah, before you go and burn it, I found something very interesting. Your father laid a spell on this book to hide its real contents. Here it should undo itself now that it's in your possession. Wait for it and three, two, one."

Light suddenly erupted from the book, streams of light and letters whirling around the room as Oby explained, "Your father spent all that time Everlue had him locked up writing a masterpiece for you Mr. Melon. He disguised it with magic so that Everlue wouldn't destroy it and hurt him or you. I encourage you to enjoy your father's final momento Mr. Kaby." Kaby stared at the cover of the book which now read, "Dear Kaby". A smile finally cracked across his face and he sat down, "Thank you, thank you so much. Are you sure there's nothing I can do to thank you?"

Oby smiled over his shoulder as he turned to go, "Everlue's in jail and I dropped enough evidence with the Magic Council's Custody Enforcement Unit to make sure he never leaves. I satisfied the customer, and," he extracted a golden key from his pocket, "I got what I came for. You've already given me reward in plenty just by bringing Everlue to my attention. Don't worry, this key is worth more than any amount of money you could've given me." He smiled and waved over his shoulder as he walked out, "Have a good day Mr. and Mrs. Melon, thanks for the work!" And just like that, he was gone.

==A Far Away Mountaintop Moments Later==

Oby stopped as he landed atop the mountaintop. He sat on a rock and covered his eyes, "Let me seeâ€¦" He rose and extended the key he had taken from Everlue, "I call to thee in the Realm of the Celestial Spirits, I beckon thee to my side, pass through the gate, Virgo!" Golden light erupted from the earth and a small human shaped form erupted from the ground. A gorgeous young woman with short pink hair and blue eyes dressed in a tight black and gold militaristic jacket open quite revealingly at the chest, spotless white pants and gloves, and thigh high black boots with a pair of handcuffs and a whip at her

belt landed and bowed slightly with a small smile, "You summoned Master? What can I do for you?"

Oby blinked in surprise at the form change and then smiled, "I wanted to apologize for attacking you earlier and see if you would consent to being my celestial spirit partner. You don't have to if you do not wish to. I will find you another wizard if you would like, but it would make me very happy if we could be partners." Virgo straightened and smiled brightly, "Actually I'm a masochist, so I don't mind playing rough, and yes, I would be happy to be your partner." Oby blinked at her forthrightness and then smiled, "Alright then, what days are you free, and is there anything you would like from me?"

Virgo blushed slightly and smiled, "You know not many Celestial Wizards ask what their spirits want from them. I'm free every day except Sunday which I like to have off, as for what _I_ wantâ€¦" She stepped closer, wrapped her arms around Oby's shoulders and whispered in his ear exactly what she wanted. Oby blushed so much that his stark white hair almost turned as pink as Virgo's. He stared at her as she stepped back to look at him with a smile, "Um, aren't you the _maiden_? Isn't that like contradictory to your title?"

Virgo shook her head with a smug playful grin, "Not at all, I told you I'm a masochist. I return to my maiden form if I ever leave it when I jump between worlds so that I can experience that exquisite burn over and over again. I'm actually very experienced. So are we agreed on the terms of the contract?" Oby smiled from ear to ear, "Yes most definitely!" Virgo grinned, "Good, then let's get started."

==Two Hours Later==

Oby was still walking slightly drunk with delight as he staggered back into the Guild Hall. He made his way to the bar and sat down next to Master Makarov still grinning from ear to ear, "Mission accomplished chief." Makarov looked at him with a raised eyebrow, "What happened to you? You look like you've run a marathon and won the grand prize." Oby started laughing, "I'm a Celestial Wizard now, and I think it may be my favorite kind of magic yet!" Makarov raised an eyebrow, "Really? And how did you come by Celestial Wizardry?"

Oby pulled himself upright still grinning, "Well you remember back in March when I teamed up with the other guilds to take down that cult? Well one of the wizards on our team was a Celestial Wizard and I wound up summoning her spirits to protect her when she ran out of power. I was very impressed, so I decided that I wanted to try and get my hands on a Celestial Spirit Key of my own. That's why I took that job today, I found out the guy I was stealing the book from had one of the Twelve Gold Zodiac Keys. I might've passed it over as I'm normally not a thief, but the guy was actually a major crime boss, so I was like three birds one stone. I did the job for free since the reward was so small anyway and I did it in like three minutes, which is good for the guild's rep, I took down that Everlue guy, and I got one of the twelve Zodiac Spirits for my Celestial Spirit partner." Makarov nodded with a smile, "Good job, sounds like you've had a very successful day. Which spirit did you get?"

"Virgo the Maiden," Oby replied dreamily. Makarov raised an eyebrow,

"Oh? With that face you're making she must be quite the cutie."
"She's a total bombshell!" Oby agreed with a huge grin, "Best. Job. _Ever._" "Well then why don't you bring her out for us to meet her?" Makarov asked, trying hard to keep a straight face. Oby grinned, "You got it boss!" He extracted Virgo's key from the inner left breast pocket of his coat and aimed it at the empty barstool next to him, "Open! Gate of the Maiden, Virgo!" Virgo popped through the golden seal that erupted around the end of the key with a smile, "You called Oby?" Oby nodded, "Master Makarov wanted to meet you." Virgo bowed her head politely, "It is a pleasure to meet you sir, I am Virgo." She looked around with a smile, "So this is Fairy Tail. Nice place. Oh, hello."

Nearly every guy in the guild had crowded around to meet her with a most remarkable speed. Oby sighed, "Virgo, meet the guys of the guild. Guys of the guild, this is Virgo, my new partner. She's a Celestial Spirit." Virgo waved with a smile, "Hi!" Then she visibly started to get uncomfortable with all the attention, "Um, Oby, can I go now?" Oby smiled, "Of course. Just wanted to introduce you to everybody right quick. You can go now if you'd like." Virgo smiled and started to glow, "See ya soon!" Oby closed his eyes and she disappeared in a flash of golden light that sent everyone who had been ogling her reeling backwards. Oby grinned as they tried to blink the stars from their eyes.

Then he was acutely aware of Ultear and Cana shooting him identical dirty looks from across the room. He raised an eyebrow in confusion and looked at Makarov. He turned around to face away from them, sat forward and asked quietly, "Eh boss, any idea why Ultear and Cana are givin me the stinkeye?" Makarov looked at them and back at him and started laughing. Oby's eyebrow went right back up and then Makarov grinned, "It looks like your fanclub isn't too happy with you having a new girlfriend."

Oby blinked in confusion. Then he realized what Makarov meant and shot a worried over his shoulder at Ultear and Cana who were still paying him a most unusual attention. Oby looked back forward and sat forward, placing his chin in one hand and drumming his fingers on the counter, "Now what am I gonna do about thatâ€¦" he muttered. Then he realized the room had gotten very quiet. He looked behind him and found the face of a very angry Gildarts a few inches from his, "Uh oh."

The air made a little _pampf_ noise as Oby disappeared. He reappeared sitting on the table Ur was at, "Please tell me he's not mad at me for what I said earlier." Ur grinned, "Nah, he's mad because I put him on ice for not checking with Cana to see if it was okay with her first. You might wanna run." Oby disappeared again as Gildarts' fist blasted through the space where his head had been. The ensuing chase lasted until Master Makarov yelled at Gildarts to knock it off, but of course by that time the guild hall was on the verge of collapsing. Gildarts stopped and Oby finally dropped back into sync with the rest of the time stream hanging upside down from the ceiling, "Well, looks like we made a mess of the place." He put his hands on the ceiling, "Arc of Time!"

Then, just as the Guild Hall and all the upturned furniture finished repairing itself, Gildarts grinned, "Gotcha." Even Oby couldn't have dodged a bolt of magic that fast from so close. There was a flash of light and Oby disappeared. Ur leapt up and slapped Gildarts, "WHAT

THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?! HE WAS JUST A KID!" Gildarts actually staggered a little and rubbed his cheek, "What do you mean was? That was Disassembly Magic, it split him into lots of tiny little replicas of himself. It's embarrassing not deadly. Look!"

A little shower of tiny semiconscious Oby's suddenly started plopping down all over the guild hall. "He'll be back to normal in a little while," Gildarts explained, "But in the meantime everyone gets to play with an itty bitty Oby. I think it's suitable payback for calling me out like that earlier." Ur was about to make a biting comment and then all the tiny Oby's yelled in unison, "The only people allowed to play with the itty bitty Oby's are Ultear and Cana! Anyone else tries it they're getting slugged! Also, CHARGE!" Gildarts suddenly found himself being charged by the entire army of itty bitty Oby's waving people's spoons, forks, pencils, paperclips and everything else they could grab. There was even one little platoon of them that had made a couple of paper airplane launchers out of rubber bands, with an entire air force of paper airplanes piloted by little Oby's in thimble helmets.

Gildarts took a step back, "Oh crap!" He grabbed a hunk of his cape and started swinging it back and forth trying to deflect wave after wave of the itty bitty Oby's. The entire guild howled with laughter as the Oby's piloting the paper airplanes rained from the sky with parachutes made out of napkins and string, yelling things like "Mayday! Mayday! We're goin down! Ayeeeeeee!" and then upon landing grabbed straws like bazookas and started shooting their thimble helmets at him. When they ran out of thimbles, they reassembled their fallen paper airplanes into a foot and a half long origami dragon and yelled, "Paper Dragon Steve away!" They somehow managed to make the dragon take off with four of him on its back and they circled Gildarts before flying over his head and dropping a pinecone that they had pulled out of thin air on him yelling, "Feel the wrath of Paper Dragon Steve!"

After a few minutes of absolute chaos and hilarity Gildarts finally yelled, "Enough!" and instantly found himself tied to a table with all the itty bitty Oby's standing on him, one of them standing on his forehead was waving a tiny flag, "Victory!" "VICTORY!" The other itty bitty Oby's yelled in delight. Everyone else gawked as the army of itty bitty Oby's cheered. Then the Oby on Gildarts' forehead raised his hand, "I hereby declare that as the loser of this match, Gildarts must ask Cana if it's okay for him to ask Miss Ur out on a date! If it is he has to give Miss Ur a great date if she wants one! And if he doesn't we'll go throw him in a water barrel!"

The itty bitty Oby's all cheered and then Gildarts started to protest and all the itty bitty Oby's suddenly shot him an evil look and laugh. Gildarts suddenly found himself being picked up and carried by the entire army of itty bitty Oby's over to Cana. He looked at Cana and she looked back at him, both unsure of whether to be embarrassed, mortified or laughing their butts off. The itty bitty Oby's chanted, "Do it! Do it! Do it!" and Gildarts yelled, "Ok ok!" Then he smiled at Cana, "Sweetie, would you be ok with me asking Miss Ur out to dinner?"

Cana smiled, "Weeell, I dunno. Maybe if Ultear's ok with it." Ultear smiled, "Weeell, I dunnoooâ€|Gray, Lyon, what do you guys think?" Gray and Lyon swapped a glance and thought about it, "Well, I guess if Master Ur wants to." "It's really not our choice," Lyon added,

"But we do want her to be happy." Ultear smiled, "Well alright then," she turned back to Cana, "I'm okay with it but if he makes my mom sad we'll freeze him into a block of ice." Cana grinned, "Hear that Daddy? No making Miss Ur sad!"

Gildarts smiled, "I'll do my best not to." All the itty bitty Oby's cheered and then they hauled him over to Ur and somehow managed to shove him upright. Gildarts gave Ur an embarrassed smile, "So um, Ur, can I buy ya dinner?" Ur smiled and pretended to think about it, "Mmmâ€¦I dunno, I might like to see you get thrown in a water barrel." A small platoon of itty bitty Oby's suddenly disappeared and reappeared with a water barrel dressed in little shark costumes, dancing and playing a song with little imaginary trumpets. Gildarts started to panic a little and everyone else burst out laughing. Then Ur leaned down with a smile, "I suppose I might let you buy me dinner, but I'm choosing the restaurant."

All the little shark Oby's went, "Awwwâ€¦" and scurried away with the water barrel. The other Oby's yelled, "Yay!" And somehow managed to heave Gildarts up onto the bench next to Ur before scurrying off. "Hey!" Gildarts yelled, "You forgot to untie me!" Then he realized he was untied and sat back down slightly mollified as all the little Oby's ran away howling with laughter.

==Three Months Later==

Gildarts straightened his tie in the mirror, "I don't mind tellin' ya Oby, that was the most embarrassing way I've ever asked a woman out. She still teases me about it." Oby shrugged with a grin and Makarov patted Gildarts' arm, "It all worked out. How do you feel?" "Same way I did the first time, nervous, excited, terrified and pumped at the same time." Makarov nodded, "I think that's how we all feel when our time comes."

Twenty minutes later Gildarts looked liable to sweat through his suit as the doors to the cathedral opened and then Ur walked in with Ultear and Cana right behind her. Gildarts was immediately the most envied man in the building, but he didn't care, he couldn't tear his eyes from hers. The ceremony passed in a bit of a blur and then they were kissing and running out the door as fast as Gildarts' feet could carry them to the carriage.

Afterwards was by far the biggest party of the year. If Gildarts hadn't been so busy he would've been annoyed to have missed it. The whole guild drank and partied themselves into a stupor in honor of the newlyweds and it was the next morning Oby grinned from ear to ear as he woke up with Ultear and Cana, the now Clive sisters under his arms. Granted they were still clothed (mostly) and they were still in the middle of the Guild Hall, so even though he couldn't remember he was certain things hadn't gotten too crazy. He was still grinning when they woke up though. Not too long after was another first for him, his first hangover.

5. Chapter 5: Unfinished Business

Chapter 5 â€" Unfinished Business

==Seven Months Later==

Oby raised an eyebrow at how dead silent the town was, and how recently it looked to have been thriving. He looked around and started searching. When he found that there was nobody at all in the village, he went back to the center of town and sat down on the edge of a smashed well, "What happened to you Rosemary Village?" he asked quietly. He closed his eyes and covered them as the images started to whirl behind his eyelids.

He saw the trees of the village lose their leaves, be covered in snow and then regain them in reds and golds before the reds and golds faded to green, then he saw the flames. He froze the image and his eyes darted around as he thought, _No, we destroyed them! How are they here? Did they escape? Was there a tower we missed?_ He locked onto a little girl with red hair and restarted the vision in real time, watching as she pulled a little girl with dark hair out of the street the cultists were rampaging on and hiding her in a box in an alley before running to find a different place and getting caught almost immediately. He snarled like an animal as the cultists proceeded to beat her unconscious and throw her chained into a cage like wagon.

He walked over to the spot where the carriage had been and opened his eyes, his magic power whipping the air into furious little eddies around him as he stared down the trail of the men who had destroyed the village and kidnapped its children, "They're gonna pay!" He snarled. Then a voice called out from behind him, "Excuse me, sir?" Oby started and turned quickly, it was the little dark haired girl who had been hidden in the box!

Oby knelt down with a gentle smile, "Hello, I'm Oberon. A wizard from Fairy Tail. Do you have anywhere to stay?" The little girl shook her head, tears welling in her eyes and then Oby scooped her up, "Hey now, don't cry, we'll go to Fairy Tail. Once you're safe there I'll go find the people who did this. Is there anyone else here?" The little girl shook her head, still trying not to cry and Oby nodded, "Alright. That's okay. Can you tell me your name?" "I'm Kagura," she said quietly, "Kagura Mikazuchi. Please, can you save my brother Simon?" When she said her brother's name the tears burst loose and she started bawling, leading to Oby spending several minutes trying to console her as she recounted the horrible night the village had been destroyed.

When Oby finally got her calmed down he smiled, "Don't worry, I'll find them. I'll find them all. You'll all be welcome at Fairy Tail." Kagura sniffled slightly, "What's that?" Oby smiled, "It's a happy friendly place full of wonderful people. They can make all the hurt in the world go away if you let them." Kagura looked up at him with watery eyes, "Really?" Oby nodded, "That's right. Would you like to see?" "Yes," Kagura said in a very small voice. Oby smiled, "Alright then, hold on tight." Kagura held on and a moment later they were standing in the Fairy Tail Guild Hall. Oby gently set her on a barstool next to Master Makarov and as Master Makarov opened his mouth to ask who she was Oby cut him off, "Master, there's a job I need to finish. This girl has lost her family and her home to something I thought we wiped out. I'm going to go finish the job. Get ready we may be about to have a lot of new members." He disappeared before Makarov could ask him what he meant and Makarov sighed, "That kid brings in more new members than anybody I've ever seen." He looked down at Kagura, "So, welcome to Fairy Tail. May I ask your name?"

==Two Minutes Later, Far Far Away==

"GRANDPA!" Erza shrieked as the latest blast of magic erupted forward from the crowd of cult mages and demon soldiers. It was blindingly bright and when the light faded, Grandpa Rob was gone. Erza sank to her knees in horror as her friends yelled at her to come on, that they needed to retreat. Then Erza screamed. A massive red magic seal erupted beneath her and all the weapons and tools that had fallen from the hands of her allies suddenly levitated. Erza's eye snapped open and she thrust her hands forward, sending all the weapons flying into the crowd of cult mages, defeating them all in one stroke. She rose to her feet and suddenly a sound of metal striking metal echoed over the sound of the other former slaves wondering what had happened.

Erza turned and saw a boy with white hair in a black coat standing next to a man who looked like Grandpa Rob but with gray hair instead of stark white, "Bravo!" the boy called as he strode up to her, "Sorry I'm late, I only just found out about this place half an hour ago. Don't worry, as you can see Rob's fine, and he'll continue to be fine. I pushed his body back in time to before he was old and sick." He smiled, "I instructed him to sit the rest of this fight out and protect the others, his magic's a lot stronger than it was but he doesn't need to push himself. I think you and I can handle this don't you?"

Erza blinked, "All alone? But, but how?" Oby looked at the crowd of fallen Cult Mages and their demon soldiers, "Well off the top of my head I'd guess with magic, like this," he added as a fresh wave of the cultists charged out of the nearest corridor. He extended a hand and flicked his finger, a jet black hurricane erupted from the palm of his now outstretched hand and hurled all the cultists, along with an entire chunk of the tower skyward. Oby extended his other hand as he caught sight of the handful of prisoners that had been in that chunk and levitated them down behind him. Then he twisted and hurled a punch at the floating cultists. They suddenly splattered like bugs beneath a fly swatter.

Oby extracted his key, "Open, Gate of the Maiden! Virgo!" Virgo popped through the gate, "You called?" Oby nodded and pointed to the refugees behind him, "I need you to guard these people while I go with, I'm sorry Miss what was your name?" "Erza," Erza replied in a small voice, "Erza Scarlet." Oby nodded, "I need you to guard these people while I go with Erza to finish taking out the trash." Virgo smiled, "Of course, have fun!" Oby nodded and turned to Erza, "Let's go, you've got friends to save don't you?" Erza blinked and then remembered through the shock of seeing such a powerful wizard appear out of nowhere, "Oh right! We've gotta save Jellal!" Oby made a slight face, "Whaaat? You got a boyfriend already? Poo. Oh well, I've got a girlfriend, so I don't guess it matters. Let's go!"

They ran off a ways and then Oby stopped, "Whoa now, you don't need to fight like that." Erza looked at him in confusion, "Like what?" Oby reached though a magic seal and pulled out a set of armor, "You need some armor." Erza blinked and then accepted it. They spent the next few minutes getting her into it and when they were done Oby stepped back and smiled, "There ya go! That's my Black Wing Armor. It might not fit so well right now, but we can get it tailored to fit after this is over." Erza looked at her now armored hands, "I feel,

strong." Oby smiled and drew a sword from another magic seal before handing it to her hilt first, "See how this suits ya."

Erza accepted it and swung it experimentally, "It feels, right." She smiled, "Let's go!" And took off at a run. Oby gently glided alongside her, glowing with blue light, "You know those wings aren't just for show. They do work, and we'll go a lot faster flying." Erza experimentally flapped the wings as she ran and a moment later she was airborne, "This. Is so COOL!" She exclaimed in delight. Oby smiled, "Now let's go save your friend!"

Erza gave a particularly determined beat of her wings and off they shot, deeper and higher into the wretched building known as the R-System.

To call what followed a battle would be vastly overstating the capability of the opponents the two of them faced. It was in fact, an out and out slaughter. Oby paused as Erza tore through a small pack of the enemy, chopping wildly at the last one she got to with reckless abandon even after she had already struck him a deadly blow. Oby slowed time around himself and casually plucked the sword from her hands before dropping back into the time stream, "Erza."

Erza whirled to face him, a wild look still in her eye, and then she saw the look in his. "You're angry," Oby told her, "And you have every right to be. These people have hurt you and your friends beyond any rhyme or reason. You mustn't give in to that dark rage though. Beat them yes, but don't lose yourself to vengeance, or soon you'll be no better than they are. You don't want Jellal or old Rob to see you turning into some raging monster do you?"

Erza flinched slightly, and Oby smiled, "Remember that Erza, fight for your friends, not for revenge. If you wouldn't do something when you're calm, you shouldn't do it when you're angry either. Now come on, we've still got a lot of people we need to save." Erza smiled and nodded, "Right." Oby handed the sword back to her, "Good, now let's go save your boyfriend!" Erza blushed slightly and protested, "He's not myâ€¦" Oby just leveled a cool gaze at her and she muttered, "Oh fine, maybe I like him a little. Let's just go already." She stepped past him and he noticed with a smile that she was blushing furiously now. _Dunno who this Jellal guy is, but he's a lucky guy._

Less than half an hour later they had made it to the "Punishment Room". Oby effortlessly blew away the mages guarding the door and then blasted it off its hinges. As Erza ran past him into the room yelling, "Jellal!" Oby walked in more cautiously, casting his gaze about and a snarl forming as he detected a very familiar magic signature. He waved his hand to make sure there was no magic left active in the room and looked again, checking every nook and cranny for the source of the traces of magic that he could still sense lingering all around the room. He growled as he slowed time and looked into the past, easily identifying the ancient wizard that had fled before they had arrived.

He dropped back into sync with the time stream, "Erza put him down." Erza looked at him in surprise, "What? Why?!" "Because," Oby replied as he walked closer, rubbing his palms together and bringing a glow springing to life around his hands, "He's been possessed." Jellal suddenly disappeared and shot a lightning quick kick at Oby's head, his eyes wide and one with a wildly distorted pupil. Oby effortlessly

flickered out of the way and slammed Jellal's head into the ground roaring, "BE GONE!"

Jellal howled in pain as red light exploded out of his distorted eye. He convulsed for a moment and then went limp. Erza stared in horror, shaking slightly as she asked, "What did you do to him?" Oby's hand glowed gently as he sat down and got comfortable to continue his work, "I drove out the magic that had possessed him. Now I'm going to wipe his memories of the torment he endured in this room so that those thoughts won't plague him." A few moments later he pulled Jellal up and draped one of his arms across his shoulders before smiling at Erza, "Alright, he should be good to go now."

They walked back out and found one of the cult mages getting back up. Oby sighed irritably, "Ok, I'm out of patience." He suddenly blazed with so much magic power that it totally filled the hallway and was blindingly bright. Erza flinched away slightly, it was like the scent of a coming storm mixed with the terror of its imminent wrath, and there was no mistaking that Oby was the center of it. Oby's eyes blazed particularly bright with the power and he suddenly stamped his foot, "TIME OF DESTRUCTION!"

The entire tower, along with every cultist and guard beast in it, suddenly dissolved into dust and Erza only narrowly managed to snap her wings open in time to avoid falling as the magic energy faded. She stared, "What did you do?!" Oby smiled wryly at her, "I can control time. I blasted the whole tower so far forward into its future that it crumbled to dust." Erza flapped her wings to stay aloft, "Ok, but how are you flying without wings?" Oby smiled, "I'm not flying, I'm standing on an invisible barrier. Just like all those kids down there who I didn't want to drop."

He gently floated down to where Virgo and Rob were still standing watch, "We're back!" Erza glided down behind him and they were both immediately swamped by Erza's friends who all ooh'ed and ah'ed over her new armor.

==The Next Day==

Erza walked over to Rob as the waves gently rocked the ship Oby had made the day before. Oby was now sacked out in a chair with one arm over his eyes sleeping while Milliana and a little girl with white hair tickled his face with a feather. He was pale and had barely moved or woken up since he finished healing everybody and building the ship apparently out of thin air in an instant the day before. "Grandpa Rob?" Erza asked quietly, "Is everyone at Fairy Tail as strong as Oby?" Rob shook his head, "No, I've hardly ever seen a wizard with so much raw power. Even my friend, the Guild Master Makarov, I'm not sure has quite so much. I'll have to ask him how he manages to handle such power." "Why?" Erza asked. Rob smiled at her, "Because Erza I see the same kind of strength in you." Erza blushed in surprise, "You really think I'm as strong as Oby?"

Rob smiled, "Well not yet, your magic is still very new to you, but yes one day I think you'll be as strong as Oby." Oby suddenly got up and dragged himself over to the railing to look out at the sea, still looking very tired but smiling faintly, "Actually Erza probably has more power than me right now. I can boost my power exponentially because of the type of magic I use, but I used up enough to tear down a couple of mountains yesterday. That's why I'm so dead on my feet."

I'll go replenish my power now. If you'd like to gather everyone up, I've been told it's quite a sight to behold."

Rob raised one of his massive eyebrows and Erza stared in shock, Oby had less magic power than her? Oby smiled at her out the corner of his eye as he caught her stare, "Don't let my current power levels fool you Erza, I'm at less than two percent of my max right now. I'll show you full power in a minute." Erza stared and as everyone gathered around, Oby hauled himself up onto the rail, flicked them all a casual salute and then hopped overboard. Everyone ran to the railing to try and see what he was doing. Then a massive whirlpool appeared about a kilometer away. "Look at the sky!" someone yelled. Erza looked up and was stunned to see a massive cloud bank being rapidly yanked towards the center of the whirlpool and then down into it.

The whirlpool and funnel cloud raged for several minutes, and then just as the ship was about to be pulled into the whirlpool, both the whirlpool and the funnel cloud suddenly dissipated. The sea slammed closed as the massive suction was released and then something exploded up out of the water, blazing with almost blinding blue light. The shining form zoomed through the air at remarkable speed, painting Fairy Tail's emblem on the dark clouds overhead in pale blue light and then shooting down to the deck of the ship. As it landed they saw that it was Oby, and about the time they realized it was him he thrust his hands towards the patchwork sails. A massive gale suddenly shoved the ship forward at such a phenomenal rate that everyone standing was yanked off their feet by the change in momentum. The air seemed dark except for the blazing blue light around Oby as he propelled the ship forward.

A few moments later the air cleared and Oby moved in the blink of an eye to toss the anchor overboard, cheerfully waving and calling, "Welcome to Magnolia everybody! All ashore who's going ashore! I'll go tell everyone you're here!" He back flipped into the air and spun away through the sky laughing, the pale weak form from just a few moments earlier nothing but a thing of the past.

==That Night==

Oby gently woke Master Makarov, "Master, can we talk?" Makarov groaned, "What time is it?" "About four in the morning," Oby replied, "Please, it's important." Makarov pulled himself upright, "Alright, what is it?" Oby jerked his head towards the door, "Let's talk outside. This isn't something anyone but you needs to hear." Makarov grumbled but he came along. Oby sat down on the grass outside and Makarov stood so that he wouldn't fall asleep.

"So? What is it that's so important you'd wake me up at four in the morning?" Makarov grumped. Oby pulled his knees up to his chin, "There's something I never told you about my old guild. The Master's real name. I didn't want to tell you because I knew you'd never want to hear what had become of him." Makarov raised an eyebrow, "Go on." "He goes by Master Hades, but you know him," Oby steeled his nerves and said quietly, "As Precht Gaebolg." Makarov stepped back in horror and indignation, "What are you saying?! How do you even know who that is?! If this is some kind of joke, it's not funny!" he shouted. Oby shot him a hard look, "I know who he is because he taught me everything I knew! He's the strongest wizard I've ever met! Why do you think I joined Fairy Tail?! I knew it was his guild and that

meant it was the best!"

He looked back out at the sea, "And he was the one behind that cult that was trying to build the R-System." Makarov took a horrified step back, "WHAT?!" "I wouldn't have suspected it either," Oby said quietly, "If I hadn't felt the magical energy signature of some of my friends I would never have figured it out. It all makes a horrible sort of sense now. Master Hades is obsessed with reviving the Black Wizard Zeref. He must've meant to use the R-System for that. I knew he was a killer willing to destroy as many lives as he had to, but this is just horrible, even by the standards I had come to expect."

They were silent for what seemed like a long time and then Oby said quietly, "I'm going after him. My friends are brutal and vicious and crazy, but they're not too far gone. Him though, they'll never be able to get off that dark path as long as they're under his sway. I have to get rid of him." He rose to his feet and Makarov caught his hand, "What are you saying?! You just said he's the most powerful wizard you've ever met! How are you going to beat him?! At least let me come with you! He was my master too, that makes it my fight as well!"

Oby smiled and shook his head, "No Master, I need you to stay here." "But why?!" Makarov yelled, "Why do you have to do this alone?! And I'm not saying I'm going to let you!" Oby looked down at him, "Because Master I need you to watch over them for me. Ultear and Cana, and all those kids I brought in today! They don't have anywhere to go, they need Fairy Tail and they need you Master!"

Makarov didn't have a comeback to that and then Oby continued quietly, "Look, I don't know how to tell her, but I found out when I met her. Erza is the twin sister of the girl I refused to kill. I was moving on, I had almost gotten over Zera's death, but seeing Erza is like seeing my Zera again with red hair. Now all the pain is back Master, and now I'm strong enough that I can win. I've got to avenge Z. I have to save my friends to make sure he doesn't hurt them like he did us! Please Master, let me do this! I've mastered every kind of Lost Magic in Grimoire Heart's arsenal, I can do this!"

Makarov wanted to argue, but he bit it back and sighed, "Alright, I'll let you go on one condition. You have to come back alive! Whether you succeed in avenging that girl or not, make it back alive or so help me I'll kill you!" Oby smiled, "Yes Master. Thank you." The wind picked up ever so slightly and Oby disappeared like dust on the breeze. "Be careful," Makarov said quietly.

"That boy has quite a chip on his shoulder," Rob said as he walked up, "All that power and he wasn't able to save the person he cared about." Makarov looked up at his old friend, "Are you trying to say I can't protect my children?" Rob shook his head, "No, only that you worry about them too much. Have faith in them. Even if he's telling the truth, and the man he seeks vengeance upon is our old Master, I do not believe he will lose. Just yesterday he destroyed a building the size of a small town with one spell, and he brought everyone who had been in the building down safely, all without breaking a sweat. This was after he had spent almost half an hour fighting alongside Erza to save our friend Jellal, healing me and making me feel younger than I have in a decade, and blocking the blast that probably would have killed me. Not to mention summoning that Celestial Spirit of his

and how swiftly he arrived on the battlefield. He picked me up and carried me to safety before anyone even realized he was there. I daresay he's strong enough to be one of the Ten Wizard Saints, and he's still only a boy."

Makarov sighed, "Yes, he is powerful alright. He beat Gildarts a few months ago, tied him up, paraded him around the guild hall and made him ask out Ur, who is now his wife. Before that he slew the demon Deliora, apparently rebuilt a city afterwards and still had enough energy to go and pull Macao and Wakaba's chops out of the fire and bring down the Dark Guild Death's Head Caucus. According to them, he took down all but two or three of their members alone, and he did it in the time it took them to take on the master of Death's Head Caucus. Not to mention the glowing reviews about his performance in dealing with a small army of those cultists when the guilds banded together to crush them. Yes, that boy is by far the most powerful I've ever seen, but I still worry."

Rob smiled, "Of course you do, that's what good parents do. By the way, I meant to ask earlier, do you think Porlyusica would help with Erza's eye? It was taken from her in that wretched place, and Oby says he can't restore it himself." Makarov nodded, "I'm sure she will, she helped fix Ur's leg after all." He sighed and looked out at the sea, "And it's good to have you back Rob. We'll go see Porlyusica tomorrow. Maybe Oby will be back by then. It wouldn't be the first time he's made short work of an opponent nobody else thought could be defeated."

6. Chapter 6: Ghosts

Chapter 6 "Ghosts

==Nearly An Hour Later==

Azuma paused, "Are we losing altitude?" Zancrow sucker punched him, "Keep your head in the fight ma!" Azuma's return punch launched Zancrow out of the ring. Azuma looked around, "We _are_ losing altitude." Zancrow sat up, "Shit, you don't think it's because!" Azuma's eyes met his and Zancrow stopped and glanced away, "Right. Sorry." Hades' voice suddenly echoed over the intercom, "Seven Kin! Assemble on the command deck at once!" Azuma and Zancrow exchanged a worried look and took off at a run.

==Three Minutes Later==

By the time they got there Rusty and Maria were already there, and Kain huffed in a moment later. "What's going on?!" Zancrow barked as he and Azuma crashed in. "We're trying to figure that out," Hades declared, the slight tension in his voice the only thing giving away his worry, "I've already checked the entire ship for spells which could have altered the controls, and there are none. I checked for gravity magic, but that's not it either. Someone from Grimoire Heart is behind this."

"You mean we've got a traitor?!" Zancrow exclaimed, instantly erupting into flames, "Point me at em! I'll roast their miserable hides!" "Has anyone else noticed that this is a controlled descent?" Rusty asked calmly as he looked out the glass dome of the command deck, "We're not falling out of the air, someone's bringing us down

very gently." "It could just be Bluenote not feeling like flying back up," Maria suggested. Hades shook his head, "No, I checked with him. He's still nearly an hour away from the rendezvous point." "What's that?" Kain asked as he pointed out to the east of the dome.

Everyone turned to look and stared as a blazing streak of blue light shot by overhead and demolished a nearby mountaintop on its way through. "That almost hit us!" Azuma exclaimed, "If we had been any higher it would've done that to us!" The ship's descent suddenly accelerated, and as they watched, there was no mistake that the ship was heading towards the valley where the light had landed. "Well," Hades declared as he reequipped into his battle helmet and cape, "I think we're about to find out who took over our ship."

==Ten Minutes Later==

Hades personally lead the investigation squad, which was actually the entirety of Grimoire Heart, off the ship a moment after it landed. A figure in a black robe and hood with a featureless white mask was waiting for them, arms crossed and silent. Hades stopped about a hundred feet from the imposing figure, "Who are you? What business have you with Grimoire Heart?" "I am here to challenge you Hades," the figure replied coolly, "I challenge you for control of Grimoire Heart!"

All present stared and then Hades barked, "Foot soldiers, eliminate this wretch!" The small army of dark wizards Grimoire Heart had brought in over the last three years charged and were blown aside like dust in the wind as the masked figure tilted its head with glowing eyes. Hades and the five of the seven present stared in shock at the effortless display of power. "You would send rabble like that to fight me?" The masked figure asked quietly, "That's insulting."

Zancrow stepped forward popeyed and blazing with black flames in fury, "You want a piece of us buddy?!" "SIT DOWN." The masked figure commanded. Zancrow sat and his flames immediately snuffed themselves out. Then he blinked and leapt up, his flames blazing to life, "WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TELLING ME TO SIT DOWN?!" Zancrow suddenly found himself sitting down wrapped in anti-magic chains. "When you need to know, you will, so 'til then just chill Pycrow." the masked figure told him bluntly, having seemingly not even moved. Zancrow sat forward angrily and then something visibly hit him. "No way," he whispered in shock and then he yelled, "IS THAT YOU?!"

Everyone else looked at him, "Who? Who is it Zancrow?" Azuma asked. Then Hades saw the look in Zancrow's eyes and his own widened as it hit him too, "No!" He turned and fired a bolt of magic at the mysterious figure, "SHOW ME YOUR FACE!" The masked figure effortlessly dodged so fast that there was a mere flicker as he leaned out of the way and straightened back up. Hades blinked and then growled, "Let's see you dodge this boy! Ameterasu Fifty Six Circle Formula!" A cage of pale purple magic seals erupted around the masked figure, and before they could detonate, they winked out of existence.

Hades stared in horror as Zancrow yelled, "You told us he was dead!" "Who?! Who is it?!" Rusty demanded impatiently. "Rusty dusty nose in

books so musty and he's the frog that sits in the well," the masked figure rattled off effortlessly. Rusty froze, his eyes wide and then he stepped back and stared, for once in his life at a total loss for words.

Maria looked at them and her patience finally gave out, "Who are you?! Just come out and say it!" The masked figure laughed quietly, "Did you ever finish that song about the ravens?" Maria took a step back, "How do youâ€¦I never told anyone about that!" "Really?" The masked figure asked, "There was one person who knew." Maria stepped back and her eyes widened, "No, you, you can't beâ€¦he's deadâ€¦" "Am I?" Maria sank to her knees trembling as the undeniable reality sank in, "Noâ€¦"

Kain and Azuma were both extremely frustrated and then a wind that smelled faintly like vanilla blew over them and they both realized who was behind the mask just as he reached up to remove it, "Yes." Oby's eyes met each of theirs in turn, and then he leveled a cold gaze at Hades, "You took them away from me." "You were a traitor," Hades replied coldly. "Refusing to kill my partner without any evidence to support an accusation of treason is not treason Hades," Oby stated coldly, "Blowing your own daughter's head off in front of me and trying to kill me for not doing it myself though, that is a terrible betrayal of trust. One that I won't let you repeat. So I reiterate my challenge for control of Grimoire Heart. I'm giving you a sporting chance, you have until three to take it. _One._"

Before anyone could say anything Hades stepped forward, "Very well," he declared, "I can see you need one final lesson in humility boy. I will not hold _back!_" He suddenly shot forward too fast for any of the others to see, and an instant later Oby had him by the back of the head and slammed him face first into the dirt. Oby slammed a punch into Hades' shoulder and shattered it effortlessly. Then he yanked Hades by the scruff of the neck and hurled him over half a mile, before launching after him in a blaze of blue light which was only visible because of the afterimage left in his wake. "That's Heavenly Body Magic!" Maria exclaimed.

Oby seemed to teleport in front of Hades his eyes blazing with power even in the glow of his aura. Before Hades could move Oby had latched a magic chain onto him and spun, slinging Hades like a chain mace, effortlessly smashing him through several trees before he broke free. Hades landed on his feet, his shoulder already three quarters healed, "Ameterasu Hundred Circle Formula!" Just as it was about to detonate Oby seemed to teleport again, and this time he threw Hades into the circle, just as it was going off. After the massive explosion blew down most of the forest Hades pushed himself back to his feet, "Very clev-" BOOM!

Oby's massive uppercut launched Hades fifty feet into the air. Hades quickly activated his own Heavenly Body Magic and, "FLAME GOD HOWL!" A massive blast of jet black flames engulfed what was left of the forest and Hades smiled slightly, "Nice try boy, but you-" "HOLY SHADOW DEMON RAGE!" A bolt of mixed black and white energy slammed into Hades from above. Hades slammed into the ground again and then he started trying to eat the darkness and light from the blast at once, but wielding two elements in tandem was something only Maria and Oby had perfected, so he had a very difficult time. Then a massive force slammed down on him from above and flattened him against the ground.

Hades struggled to rise as the hurricane dissipated, "Bluenote?!" Then he saw Oby zooming around him, effortlessly devouring the flames he had set an instant earlier. Oby devoured all the flames in less than a minute, then he landed in a wide legged stance behind Hades. Just as Hades broke free of his gravity magic and turned, he saw what Oby was doing. The clouds overhead split and a massive fireball came rocketing towards him. Hades took a fraction of a second to be impressed with his prize pupil's skill and then he leapt and snagged the meteor with a magic chain and slung it off course at Oby.

The meteor shattered under the force of the punch Oby met it with, but by then Hades had already prepped, "GRIMOIRE LAW! This has gone on long eno-WHAT?!" The Grimoire Law spell had just winked out of existence. "Ah-ah-ah," Oby tutted with a grin and a wag of his finger, "This is my challenge remember? _So_ _I'm_ _in control_" He suddenly seemed to teleport again and blasted Hades point blank with Crash magic.

Hades flew backwards into an unburned patch of forest and Oby landed, "_TERRA CLAMARE!_" The forest around Hades promptly exploded. Hades flew out of the flames a moment later a hundred feet in the air, his Devils Eye active and his hands in position for "KATSU!" The blast of darkness, a force more powerful and terrible than even the Abyss Break slammed into Oby and left a crater a kilometer wide and half as deep. Oby was nowhere to be seen as Hades landed at the edge of the crater, "And that's the end of that." He turned and strode back towards the ship, the Kin of Purgatory staring in shock. Then he suddenly roared in anguish and was bent double in pain clutching his eye as blood spurted between his fingers.

Oby appeared right behind him with a needle pressed into a Curse Doll like the ones Kain was learning to use and a vicious grin as he declared, "Arc of Embodiment Curse Doll and Requip Purgatory Armor." Hades staggered and turned, his one eye left now wide in horror instead of rage. "He put on his armorâ€|" Zancrow whispered. Rusty stared, "That meansâ€|" "He's been playing around this whole timeâ€|" Azuma finished in a stunned voice. "Using our magic as well as we do was just his warm up act?" Maria asked in horror.

"That's right," Oby declared as his grin went from vicious to utterly evil. He shot forward and started pummeling Hades, effortlessly smacking him around like a ragdoll even though his curse doll lay untouched on the ground. Hades tried to fight back, and despite being a master hand to hand fighter, Oby still made blocking and dodging his every attack look easy as he rained down blow after blow on Hades. He effortlessly drove Hades back, finishing with one tremendous uppercut that launched Hades flying. "Now then," he said quietly as his magic power erupted into visibility around him, easily blazing twenty feet high before he teleported to above Hades and roared, "STOOORM GOOD, _**HOOOOOOOOOOOOWL**_"

The following hurricane slammed Hades into the ground with such force that it left a crater comparable to the impact of the Katsu. Oby landed next to Hades as his former master struggled to rise. "How?" Hades asked as he climbed back to his feet, "How have you grown so powerful? So much magic, you could never have learned all this and become so strong in the four years since I threw you out! There's just not enough time!" Oby smiled with a hint of pride, "That thing you thought I couldn't do until we reached the Grand Magic World? I

did it."

Hades' eye widened, "You, that's, that's impossibleâ€|You perfected the Arc of Time?!" Oby's smile didn't waver, "You said there wasn't enough time, but I have all the time in the world. I won't go back in time because I know the effects that such an action could have," now his smile vanished, "and that means that all the time with Zera you stole from me is lost to me forever." His eyes started glowing again, "And now I'm going to make you pay for taking her from me." Hades blinked as he finally realized, "You loved her?" "You have no idea how much she and the others mean to me," Oby told him quietly, "I'll never let you do to them what you did to us."

Then he teleported again, this time reappearing high overhead blazing with power as he roared, "SO HERE'S THE FINAL BLOW! STORM GOD SLAYER SECRET ART!" Hades stared, _I didn't teach him any of those!_ Oby grinned, "_MOUNTAIN THROWING._" All present gawked and Zancrow asked in a slight panic, "DID HE JUST SAY MOUNTAIN THROWING?!" Then magic chains shot out from Oby's hands into the mountain behind him, and an instant later it started to rumble before suddenly floating into the air atop a hurricane. "THIS IS THE END FOR YOU HADES!" Oby roared, "BE GOOONE!" He ripped the chains over his head and sent the mountain hurtling towards Hades just as a voice screamed "NOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

Hades closed his eye and prepared for death, and then, it didn't come. Oby stared and floated back down to the ground, easily tossing the mountain back where he'd gotten it, his feud with Hades totally forgotten as Zera ran towards him, "You're aliveâ€|" Zera ran up to him and tackled him in a hug, "_You're_ alive!" Then she pulled back and slapped his chest, "What are you doing throwing mountains at my dad?!" Oby flinched slightly and had trouble meeting her gaze, "Um well, thought, thought you were dead. Had to um, had to kill him for that. I'm kind of embarrassed now."

"Why the hell would you think _I_ was dead?" she exclaimed, "He told us you were dead!" "Yes well, we've never seen him fail to kill something he wanted dead, and I honestly wasn't expecting him to tell me to kill you and then do it himself when I wouldn't. That was my so called treason by the way. Yeah getting shredded to bits and thrown out of my own ship at ten thousand feet really hurt." Then he finally met her gaze, "Losing you hurt a lot more." Zera blushed slightly, "Is that what happened?"

Then she turned to the others and barked, "I TOLD YOU HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BETRAYED US!" "YOU SAID NOTHING OF THE SORT!" Zancrow snapped back. "She did cry though!" Azuma qualified. "Every night for six months and we still weren't talking about you to keep her from bawling at the mere mention of you!" Maria added cheerfully. "Her mourning of you was quite poetic!" Rusty declared with a grin and the blatant fib, "Not that any of us missed you." "Even ice cream didn't help!" Kain declared with tears in his eyes.

Zera blushed and had a hard time meeting Oby's gaze, "I, I did not." "WILL YOU JUST KISS HIM ALREADY?!" Zancrow yelled impatiently. "Maybe," Zera muttered and then Oby kissed her. She kissed back quite enthusiastically. After they came up for air she asked, "Where have you been all this time?" Oby smiled slightly, "I actually joined his old guild Fairy Tail." Zera blushed, "What?! But how can you come back if you're a member of another guild?" Oby smiled slightly with a

shrug, "I can't." "SO WHY DID YOU CHALLENGE MASTER HADES FOR CONTROL OF THE GUILD?!" Zancrow shouted. "I was going to bring you all back to Fairy Tail with me," Oby replied, "You'd all be very welcome." "No way," Zera declared firmly, "I'm Zera Gaebolg of Grimoire Heart, no other guild. If you want to join them, that's fine, we'll keep your spot open with the 7 Kin, but I'm not leaving."

Oby started to protest and she laid a finger on his lips, "And don't worry, I'm not letting him off the hook. You just won control of Grimoire Heart," "I'M NOT DEAD YET!" Hades protested. Zera's face twisted with barely contained rage and before anyone could stop her, her hand snapped out and launched a sword out of a seal and straight through Hades' head with a black lightning bolt hot on its heels. "Yes you are," she said quietly. She laid her head on Oby's chest, "Now hand over control of Grimoire Heart to me. I'll be the new Guild Master in my father's place."

Bluenote Stinger looked at Hades' charred and bloody remains and then at the reunited 7 Kin of Purgatory and raised his hands, "I'm out. Bye kids. Good luck with life!" He looked at the rabble that had so recently joined and been so easily swept away by Oby's magic, "You lot comin?" They all climbed to their feet, tossed their Grimoire Heart masks and walked away. "YOU SHITTY TRAITORS!" Zancrow yelled, "FLAME GOD-" Then Azuma laid a hand on his shoulder, "Calm down Zancrow. We don't need them, and they're not worth cooking." For once in his life, Zancrow actually listened to Azuma and snorted, "Yeah, you're right. Still pisses me off."

Zera blushed shyly, "Um, I kept something for you." A small book appeared in her hand and she pressed it into Oby's with a shy smile, "I never knew you thought I was so cute." Oby smiled and laid his forehead against hers, "You read my grimoire huh?" Zera smiled slightly, "It was all I had left of you. Keeping dad from burning it wasn't easy. Gave the lie to so much of what he said." She laid her forehead on his chest, "I can't believe that monster made me and Erza with black magic!" Oby's head snapped upright, "Erza! I almost forgot! I found her!"

Zera's head snapped up, "WHAT?! WHERE?!" "She was one of the slaves at the last R-System site," Oby said quietly. Zera's eyes widened, "What?" Oby nodded, "No need to go get her, I flattened it and busted everybody out the day before yesterday. She's fine, I think she's going to join Fairy Tail." "Take me to her," Zera said quietly. Oby nodded, "Shall we fly ourselves or take the ship?" "It's been a long night," Zera smiled, "Let's take the ship. You haven't seen the new rec room. Can you believe Zancrow got us a pool table?" "And I'm totally awesome at it!" Zancrow declared happily. "Rusty beats him every time," Zera whispered with a grin. "I HEARD THAT!" Zancrow yelled. Zera laughed and Oby smiled, "Hey the sun's coming up!"

==An Hour Later==

Erza stirred slightly as someone poked her, "What?" "Hey sis, long time no see." Erza's eyes snapped open and she found Zera crouching in front of her. The whole guild woke up as Erza's shriek of delight rattled it. Everyone stared and then Zancrow said from around a mouthful of fire, "Man Zera, your sister's as loud as I am." Azuma poked his head out of the bar and materialized into the barstool next to him, "Nobody's as loud as you Zancrow." "He has a point," Maria called from the middle of the Clive family pile. Gildarts, Ur,

Ultear, Cana, Gray and Lyon all looked at her, "Who are you?!"

Master Makarov sat up from where he had been sleeping on the bar, "OBYYY! Who are all these people?!" "We are Grimoire Heart's Seven Kin of Purgatory," Rusty declared with a grin from behind the bar. "We're Oby's old team," Kain declared with a smile as he happily munched a sandwich. Oby grinned as he teleported in, "Everybody getting acquainted alright?" Makarov looked at him as he appeared on the bar next to him, "You don't look any worse for wear. I was expecting you to be a lot more beat up." Oby shrugged with a grin, "I told you I'd win. Zera's the new Guild Master of Grimoire Heart."

Makarov raised an eyebrow, "Isn't that the name of the girl you said was dead?" "I thought she was, turns out Ol' Hades pulled one over on me before he tried to kill me. Zera's just fine. Can't say the same for Hades though. He'll never hurt anyone again," Oby declared with a sober smile. Then he added, "Zera and the others have agreed to try to get Grimoire Heart recognized as an official guild. We were wondering if you could help out with that." Makarov thought for a moment, "You say Zera's the new guild master? She doesn't look old enough. It'll be hard to make the council take them seriously." Oby smiled, "Oh that's easy, check this out." He snapped his fingers and he, Zera, Erza, Rusty, Kain, Maria, Zancrow and Azuma all suddenly grew ten years in an instant. "Age is just a number Master," Oby said with a smile. Makarov blinked and then nodded, "That might work. You say they're all powerful wizards?" Oby nodded, "Very."

Makarov _hmmm_ed, "Will you be rejoining them if they do become an official guild?" Oby shook his head, "No, I've grown to like Fairy Tail. I honestly tried to get them to join us, but Zera put her foot down. So we've got a new allied guild. Great stuff huh?" Makarov thought for a moment, and then he nodded, "Yes, you've done good Oby." Zera called, "Oby, can you turn us back now? I think some of Erza's friends are going to die of nosebleeds if you don't." Erza blinked and then looked, "Jellal! Simon! What's wrong with you two?!" Jellal and Simon had lost so much blood through the nose in the space of a few minutes at the sight of a full grown Erza and Zera that they were barely conscious as they high fived each other, "Best wake up call ever," Jellal grinned with hearts in his eyes. "Oh yeah," Simon agreed with an equal number of hearts in his.

==A Week Later==

Ultear found Oby walking through town, "Whatcha dooooin'?" Oby smiled, "Oh hi Ultear! Eh, I'm looking for a house. If I can't find one, then I'll head out of town and find a spot to build one." "Oh that's, that's cool," Ultear replied, a streak of worry shooting through her, _he can't be planning to move in with her already can he?_ She walked alongside him quietly for a little while and then, "So, you and uh, you and Zera huh?" Oby shook his head, "Nope." Ultear tilted her head, "But Zancrow said you and herâ€¦" "Were in love?" Oby finished, "Zancrow runs his mouth too much. Yes we were, but four years apart can put an end to things like that easily. I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for her, and I would've been delighted to pick back up where we left off, but we agreed that she didn't need a relationship to deal with on top of trying to run Grimoire Heart and getting it officially recognized. So we've moved on."

Ultear raised an eyebrow with a slight smile tugging at the corner of her mouth, "Wow, that's, really quick. I would've expected you to be really upset about something like that. She seems like a really great girl." Oby smiled at her, "She is, and yes I was upset, but since I can control time, I was able to take all the time I needed to make my peace with it and with her in the blink of an eye." He looked up at the clouds, "She's amazing, and she's going to be a great Guild Master. The others are rowdy sometimes, but she can handle them. They respect her and I know she'll lead them to greatness. I would've gone with them, but my place is with Fairy Tail now."

Ultear smiled, "Sooo, you're in the market?" Oby looked around at the market, "I think we both are aren't we?" Ultear laughed, "No! I mean the market for a girlfriend." Oby's eyebrows shot behind his bangs, "Oh!" then he grinned, "Well Gray and Lyon might hate me for it, but if you're offering I'm very much game to go out with you." Ultear wrapped around his arm with a huge smile, "It's a date! Gray and Lyon'll get over it."

7. Chapter 7: A Time Wizard's House

Chapter 7 " A Time Wizard's House

==The Next Day==

Oby rumbled with dissatisfaction as he looked out at Magnolia from the top of the Guild Hall, "Looks like I'm gonna have to go check the countryside for a good spot. Can't believe I couldn't find a place in town." He rose and sighed, "I suppose it will be good for privacy though." He suddenly vanished with nothing but a little bamf of air smacking into the empty space where he'd been an instant earlier.

A few moments later there was a massive blast across the water from the Guild Hall. A large crater appeared in the side of a mountain and then a huge wave erupted from the lake and whirled into it. Most of the guild ran outside to see what was happening and they stared as Oby put the water back where he'd gotten it, only for it to course back into the crater where he'd blasted it below the water line. "What's he doing?!" Makarov demanded, "Is he practicing his magic on the mountain? Someone get over there and find out what he's doing!" Laxus stepped forward, "Yeah I'm on it." He disappeared in a flash of lightning.

He reappeared on the top edge of the massive crater and raised an eyebrow, "What is he doing?" Oby was standing on a largely circular platform of stone which looked like it had been sand blasted smooth. There were three levels to the platform and he seemed to be washing the edge of one with a whirling torrent of high pressure water. Laxus teleported down teleported down to the highest of the three tiers in another flash of lightning, and appeared sitting on its edge, "Oby!" Oby paused washing the stone and Laxus saw that he had actually washed a considerable amount of the stone away, "Oh hey Laxus. Sorry about all the noise, construction's not a quiet job. It'll be much quieter now that I've gotten all that rock I didn't need out of the way. That was the only part that's likely to be so very loud."

Laxus raised an eyebrow, "What are you building that you had to demolish a mountainside for?" Oby smiled, "I'm building myself a house." He pointed to the massive opening out onto the lake, "I've

got a great view of the Guild Hall, I've got all the water I can drink, and I won't have to deal with noisy neighbors. I'm going to put the first three floors here on this platform, and then I'm going to build on up the walls as I please."

Lexus raised an eyebrow, "All by yourself?" Oby grinned, "Yeah, I'll probably be done by tomorrow evening. I can't use my Arc of Time again today because I spent so much time searching for the right spot to build in with it, but this'll be done in no time once I'm able to use it again." Lexus sat forward, "You do know that houses usually take a few weeks to build right?" Oby grinned, "Yeah but most people aren't me! Just watch, this is gonna be great." Lexus slid down to the next level of the stone, "Alright, I guess I'll leave you to it then." He teleported away and Oby went back to carving.

==A Moment Later==

"He's building a house?" Makarov asked as Lexus relayed what Oby had told him, "All by himself?" Lexus nodded, "That's what he said. If he's as good at building stuff as he is at destroyin' things I suppose he's in good shape. I wouldn't hold my breath on his claim that he'll be done by tomorrow night though." Makarov looked at him, "He claimed he'll be done by tomorrow?" Lexus nodded, "That's right. I dunno if he's cocky, crazy or dead serious, but I guess we'll know tomorrow."

Rob smiled, "I wouldn't doubt him. He built the ship we got here on in the blink of an eye. I'm sure he'll impress us again." Makarov looked at him in surprise, "He did?" Rob nodded. Makarov looked at the ship, which was still moored right outside the Guild Hall, "I didn't realize that."

==Meanwhile==

Oby quickly bounced up the steps he had just finished carving to what was to be the first enclosed floor. He scratched his head, "Maybe I should have gone for a precision carve, not sure how well Arc of Trees'll work on solid stone, and I don't want to pulverize it to make soil or risk the roots shattering my floorâ€¦" He looked around and then his eyes lit on a spot in the wall. A crafty grin split his face, "That'll work." He jumped up to the wall on a burst of wind, "Disassembly!" A circular web of white energy erupted from his hands and slammed into the rock, neatly slicing it into perfect bricks. Oby caught the falling bricks with his barrier magic and strained a little as he set them on the foundation he had carved, carefully holding them in place with his Barrier to keep them from collapsing and scattering into the water below.

He landed on top of them and started lifting the bricks out and setting them on the lower level. Before long he had removed all the bricks except the ones he wanted for the walls. Then he selected a layer and lifted them up to the top layer, easily setting them in place. He rubbed his chin, "Now how am I gonna keep it from falling apart when I lower my barrier?" He smacked a fist into his hand, "Got it!" He raised his hands, "Flame God Kagatsuchi!" A storm of black flames erupted away from his hands and melted the stone in a matter of minutes. Soon Oby was laying a water wrapped hand to the molten stone and drawing the heat out using his immunity to heat from his combined Flame and Sea God Slayer magics to keep it from burning his hand off as he easily drained the heat away.

When he was done he was still sweating profusely, but he had brought the molten stone back to solidity in less than half an hour. He leapt up to the mountaintop on a blast of wind and blew out a hurricane of black flames as wide as all of Magnolia and every bit as high. When he was done he summoned a massive gale and dispersed the heat through the sky to keep from turning an already warm day into a lethally hot scorcher. He then flew down into the lake to cool off. He sat at the bottom for several minutes contemplating the design of the rest of the building while he cooled down, and then he swam back over to his construction site.

He surfaced and found Master Makarov waiting for him, "Hi Master!" Makarov looked at him, "Why did you such blow an inferno into the sky that the temperature in town jumped five degrees even after you dispersed it?" Oby laughed nervously as he climbed out of the water, "Sorry about that, I had to get rid of the heat. I would've dumped it into the lake, but that would've boiled it and killed all the fish, not to mention burning anyone in it. If I had fired at the walls it would've done the same thing, so the sky was the only safe place to send it. I'll see about bringing in some rain if you want me to."

Makarov shook his head, "That won't be necessary, just please don't do it again. You've got the whole town talking wondering what the heck you're doing over here." Oby scratched his head with a nervous grin, "Well, I guess I should've seen that coming. Even for me, that was a lot of fire." Makarov nodded, "Yes." Then he turned to what of the structure was done, "So where did all that heat come from? None of this looks to have been on fire recently." Oby's nervous grin turned to a proud one, "That's because I melted and solidified the rocks to make them hold together properly. That's where all the heat came from, I couldn't sit here holding it in my barrier until my time magic came back to accelerate the hardening, so I did it manually. Also, I probably wouldn't have had any control of where the heat went if I had just sped up the cooling. I didn't really expect it to turn out this well, I think I turned it into marble!" Makarov nodded, "It seems you have." He turned to leave with a small smile, "Well, keep up the good work and please refrain from making the temperature jump again. It's pleasantly warm now, but it'll be sweltering if it gets much hotter."

Oby grinned, "Yessir. No more super temperature jumps. Look on the bright side, it's warm enough for a beach party now." Makarov paused and thought for a moment, "Beach partyâ€|That's actually a good idea! I'll go get everyone started preparing for it! Make sure you make it over to enjoy it!" Oby grinned, "I'll do my best!" Makarov flew off and Oby started carving out a door into the stone so that he could go inside.

==Two Days Later==

Oby woke up in his bed, in his house. He rolled out of bed grinning slightly, "I _did_ finish." He strolled across the wooden floor and down the steps to the living room where he was surprised to find Cana and Ultear waiting for him. "Hi Oby!" Ultear called. "Nice place ya got here!" Cana added with a grin. Oby blinked and smiled weakly, "Thanks, I like it too. Is anyone else here?" Ultear smiled, "Wellâ€|Most of the guild's been through looking, we didn't go in your room because we knew you were sleeping, but everyone wanted to

come look. Nobody's ever seen a house that was built in two days, especially not one this nice!"

"Polished wood floors and walls, marble tower in the middle, library as big as the one at the guild hall and I don't know what this furniture is made of but it's super comfy. The kitchen's all ready to go and the whole place looks amazing. You made a tile roof and bored a tunnel out through the mountainside for your fire place and all of the metal in the building looks like it was hand made. You're a one-man construction crew!" Cana declared with a big smile. Ultear smiled lopsidedly, "You should really consider working construction jobs. I bet people would pay monster fighting money for buildings like this. How long did this take you? A fraction of a minute?"

Oby smiled, "Actually it took me about a week nonstop in my time stop. I won't be able to use my time magic at all for the next week." Ultear raised an eyebrow, "Seriously? That's still amazingly fast." Oby's smile grew slightly, "I actually wasn't trying that hard. I didn't lay any defensive enchantments or anything, normally when I build something I enchant the heck out of it. The ship I made to bring all those kids from the R-System back here? They didn't realize it because I was using my Sky God Slayer magic to propel it, but it can actually fly." Ultear and Cana stared for a moment and then Ultear grinned, "Yeah right."

Oby raised an eyebrow, "No really! I built Grimoire Heart's airship all by myself the same way I built that one. The only difference is that I was able to put two or three time stops into working on it instead of just one. If I say I made something that can fly, it can fly." Ultear raised her hands with an I-still-don't-believe-you-but-I'm-not-going-to-push-the-matter smile, "Ok, ok, it can fly." Oby frowned, "You don't believe me." Ultear smiled, "Not for a minute." Oby snorted in mild irritation, "Alright then I'll take you up after breakfast." Ultear smiled, "Sure you will."

==An Hour Later==

"Ok, I admit it, I was wrong," Ultear said with a grin as the countryside drifted by beneath them. Oby grinned proudly and then his smile grew as she gave him a peck on the cheek. Makarov walked up grinning from ear to ear, "I bet Bob and Goldmine are gonna flip! Everybody's going to want one of these!" Oby smiled, "It'll cost em! I'll give a slight discount because they're friends, but they still won't be cheap." "That's the spirit Oby!" Makarov laughed. Oby patted the rail, "What do you think of auctioning off this tub? I can do way better, this was a rush job." Makarov thought for a moment and then raised a finger, "Do we get an inhouse discount on ours?" Oby grinned, "It's for Fairy Tail! That means it's free!" Makarov grinned from ear to ear, "Excellent! Do I get to help design it?" Oby smiled, "I'll build to specifications as best as I can."

8. Chapter 8: Year X777, Dragons and Trials

Chapter 8-Dragons and Trials

==Nine Months Later==

Oby paused as a voice called, "Excuse me! Are you Oberon?" Oby

turned, "I am. Who's asking?" The stately woman walked up, "I am Layla Heartfilia, a Celestial Wizard. I understand you hold the key of Virgo the Maiden?" Oby hopped back a half step his hands coming out of his pockets ready to fight, "You can't have her if that's what you're asking!" Layla blinked and then she smiled brightly, "Oh no nothing of the sort! I wanted to ask you a favor." Oby relaxed a little, not a lot and asked warily, "What sort of favor?" "I am the most recent of a long line of Celestial Wizards and this July a date which was decided four hundred years ago is rolling around. I know it may sound hard to believe, but I will be opening a gate into the past so that five heroes may pass through, in the hopes that they can save the world from a force that may one day soon rear its head to threaten the world once again."

Oby raised a finger, "One moment," He paused time for a moment and closed his eyes, the past flashing before them. A few minutes later he lowered the time stop, "I can see that you are telling the truth. Being a time wizard myself I'd ordinarily be a little reluctant to tamper with the past, I know how terrible the results can be. However, given that the five have already been pulled from their proper place in the time stream, I think I can safely assume that opening the gate for them to pass through on this end will not damage history. I can see that you need all twelve zodiac keys, how many do you have thus far?"

Layla thought for a moment, "You make four, assuming Grammi can make it back from Alakitasia in time." Oby nodded, "Not a problem, I can get her here in an instant. Also, consider it six, I know where Leo and Aries are. Probably have to bribe Karin since she's such a rat. I'll help you run down the other six. On one condition." Layla tilted her head inquisitively, "Yes?" "There are two girls at Fairy Tail, Sorano and Yukino Aguria, both have expressed an interest in learning Celestial Spirit Magic, I want you to teach them." Layla smiled, "I'd be happy to."

"Excellent!" Oby declared, "Then I'd say we've got a deal!"

==Three Months Later==

Oby paused and set his drink down as he saw the pink haired boy in the scarf at the door with Master Makarov, "Natsu?" He grinned and downed the rest of his drink. A few moments later Natsu had come in and was picking a fight with Gray. Oby stood up and walked over, "Hey Natsu?" Natsu didn't even ask how Oby knew his name, "Yeah?!" Oby put a hand on his head, "Calm down and come meet our other Dragon Slayers. Trust me, if you pick a fight with Gray, then Lyon will get involved, and then Ultear, Cana, Ur, Gildarts and me. You might be able to fight Gray to a standstill, but you'd get stomped into the dirt trying to fight all seven of us at once." Natsu sprang away, his hands immediately coming up ready to fight, "Oh yeah? Says who?"

Oby raised an eyebrow, "Says me. Would you care to step outside and go a few rounds?" "Why not fight me right here?" Natsu exclaimed, "Are ya scared?" Before Natsu knew what happened Oby was holding him upside down by the foot at arms length, "Listen Natsu, something important you need to understand if you're going to fit in here. Everyone in the guild is family, and the Guild Hall is our home. It's not a place for fighting. We'll undoubtedly quarrel sometimes, that's what families do, but just blowing off steam like you need to right now? Take it outside. Ya get me?" Natsu crossed his arms and pouted,

"Yes."

Oby smiled and set Natsu back on his feet, "Good. Welcome to Fairy Tail, I'm Oby. Now let's step outside and you can get that fight you're itching for." Out they went with over half the guild following them to watch. They set up on the beach, and Oby smiled, "I'll let you take the first shot." "Better make it a good one Pinky!" Gray called from the sidelines, "He's one of the strongest wizards we've got!" Natsu grinned, "Alright then," He inhaled, "Fire Dragon-ROOOAR!" Oby inhaled the flames effortlessly, "Those are some mighty tasty flames ya got there kid." Natsu was utterly dumbfounded, "You're a Fire Dragon Slayer too?!" Oby shook his head and ignited a black flame on the tip of his finger, "No, but you're half right. I'm a God Slayer." He pointed at the lake and a blast of jet black flames half a kilometer long rocketed out across the water. Natsu stared and Oby turned to him smiling, "So, your flames won't work against me. What's your back up?"

Natsu started trembling and Oby seemed to teleport over to him and laid a hand on his shoulder, "There's nothing to be upset about Natsu. You're still just a kid, even if you are the son of a dragon. I've been learning magic since I was four years old, and I'm older than you." Natsu sprang and slugged Oby with a flaming fist, "I am not scared!" Oby's head actually snapped around with the force of the punch, he turned back around and saw Natsu had sprang back and landed ready to fight again. Oby rubbed his jaw with a small grin as the entire guild held its breath, "You've got spunk kid, but barking bigger than you can bite'll getcha hurt."

Oby seemed to teleport and Natsu had about a millisecond to realize that Oby was right in front of him before BOOM! Oby's punch launched him about thirty feet into the air. Natsu fell into the water screaming and dragged himself back out, boiling himself dry with a big grin on his face. Oby grinned, "Kid just doesn't know when to quit. Laxus, Eric, you two are Dragon Slayers, would you two mind teaching him after I test out his tenacity?" Laxus scoffed, "Why should I teach him?!" "And I just became a Dragon Slayer a few months ago!" Erik exclaimed.

"You're both still older than he is, and you're Dragon Slayers just like him," Oby declared as Natsu beat against his barrier, "The kid's new and he's going to need friends. You two are prime candidates." "You're a God Slayer," Laxus pointed out, "And you seem to have taken an interest in him." Oby nodded, "Fair enough, but you guys should still be friends." He made a little swatting motion with his palm and the barrier fell on Natsu like a brick wall, "Fine I'll teach him, but I want you two to help. Imagine if we had a Flying Dragon Squadron, that would be pretty cool don'tcha think?"

Erik thought about it and was all for it, Laxus was still unsure though. Makarov looked up at him as Oby continued to fight Natsu with one hand, "He's got a point Laxus. The boy does need someone to look after him." Laxus frowned, "Why's it gotta be me? Besides isn't the whole guild supposed to be everyone looking out for each other?" Makarov nodded, "Yes, but it's always good to have a mentor. And while Oby is undoubtedly qualified, it would be good experience for you. You know what they say, you never really master something until you have to teach it." Laxus sighed, "Alright fine, I'll teach the kid. Ya hear that Oby? I'll train the kid! Erik too! Might as well have two."

Oby grinned as he effortlessly spun Natsu midair like a pinwheel, "That's great!" He slammed Natsu into the ground and picked him back up, "Ya hear that Natsu? You're going to have an experienced Dragon Slayer teaching you!" "I don't wanna!" Natsu complained. Oby smashed his face into the sand again and picked him back up, "If you don't learn and get stronger, then this'll happen every time and everyone in the guild will be able to pummel you like this. Trust me Natsu, it'll be good for ya. Who knows, you might even be strong enough to beat me one day." That got Natsu's attention and everyone else's immense skepticism. Natsu nodded and agreed though, so Oby counted it as a win.

==Four Months Later==

Master Makarov cleared his throat as the entire guild's attention was riveted to him, "As you all know, it is time to announce this years contestants for the Fairy Tail Guild's S-Class Trials! Normally I would skip right to that, however this year there will be a separate trial for two wizards who have proven themselves strong enough to be S-Class time and time again. This is so that the usual trials can maintain some semblance fairness. Laxus Dreyar and Oberon Williamson will prove their worth by fighting all of Fairy Tail's current S-Class wizards simultaneously on their own! If they are victorious, they will be promoted to S-Class in time to assist in proctoring this years S-Class trial!"

There was a roar of surprise from the guild, that meant that now anyone who could beat all the S-Class wizards simultaneously could become an S-Class wizard! Not only that, but it meant that this year there could be not one, not two, but three new S-Class wizards!

Master Makarov swept his hand to the side for quiet, "The battles between Laxus, Oberon and the S-Class will take place one week from today! We will do battle on Mount Hakabe where we can go all out! Laxus, Oberon! Prepare yourselves to face off against the greatest force Fairy Tail's S-Class can bring to bear!"

==Meanwhile, Edolas==

King Faust looked at the four elderly commanders of his royal army, their four young apprentices and the newly made commander Panther Lily. "You have your orders, now go and crush the wizard guilds who dare to rebel against us! For the sake of Edolas we must curb their overuse of magic! If that means we must curb their lives as well, so be it!" Oberon Bacon's gauntleted fist crashed into his palm with a grin while Erza Knightwalker, Hughes and Sugarboy all grasped their weapons with excitement. Their first real battle and it was to save the kingdom, they couldn't have asked for a greater honor and thrill.

==One Week Later==

Oby howled in pain as he crashed into the antimagic barrier Makarov had quietly erected before the battle to stop Oby's Arc of Time and his time stop shattered. He staggered back as the S-Class wizards, now including Laxus, stared at the horrific burns covering Oby where he had connected with the barrier. Oby's face had been burned half off and his right arm was in similar condition. Oby hissed in pain as

his Sky God Slayer magic quickly began repairing his wounds, then Makarov yelled, "GILDARTS NOW!" Oby was still in too much shock and pain to even try to dodge. His eyes widened as Gildarts flashed forward and his fist, loaded with Crash magic, slammed into Oby's jaw.

Oby flew a thousand feet into the sky in less than a minute. As he started to fall he frantically searched his mind for what could possibly have hurt him so badly. _Makarov wouldn't have done it on purpose, he wasn't like Precht!_ _A wizard's magic is tied to their life force, the stronger they are, the greater that bond is! Anti-magic is death to me! Crap I can't let them hit m-_ "AAAAAAAAAAAAH!" As Oby fell, he crashed back into the barrier from above and it was like landing on a hot skillet, as soon as he hit it the burning began again. It was all Oby could do to roll off the barrier and tumble the remaining hundred feet to the ground. Weakened by the anti-magic, several bones broke. His opponents stared, "I had never imagined he would have such a strong reaction to anti-magic," Makarov said quietly. "I've never seen anyone that reacted like that to anti-magic," Gildarts replied in a shocked and slightly horrified whisper as Oby desperately dragged himself away from the barrier with one arm, the first time he had run from anything since he was four years old.

The air was dark around Oby as his magic sought to repair the damage. It wasn't going well.

Oby managed to pull himself partially upright on a nearby rock and turned back to face his opponents, even though at this point his leg was still fractured in several places and held together as much by Oby's force of will as its own structural integrity. "You'd better quit Oby," Laxus called, "You can't get to us in here and we can still throw anything we want at you. You don't stand a chance now that we know you can't touch anti-magic!" Oby's face twisted in pain and furious determination, "No way. I promised them, promised I'd never lose. Not to anybody, not even the master of my guild."

Makarov closed his eyes and grimly launched a small bolt of antimagic at Oby. It hit him in the shoulder like a bullet and he roared in pain. The battle would have to go until Oby surrendered. Makarov was no fool; he knew how quickly Oby could recover. If he dropped the anti-magic barrier, Oby would demolish them before they could even blink.

"Oby stop this!" Ur yelled, "Your body can't take much more of a beating!" Oby snarled and forced his magic to speed up the healing, in moments he was almost totally healed, but he was still in considerable pain and the healing had drained him tremendously. The anti-magic hadn't just burned him, it poisoned the wounds. Healing them required ten times as much power as a regular wound. He hauled himself upright and immediately fell to a knee clutching his hammering heart as blood roared in his ears and his vision swam in pain. "I promised, promised we'd never, never lose!" _Idiot,_ a voice echoed in his head, _you can't win alone._ Oby felt Zera's smile as Rusty yelled at him, _You have my magic, USE IT!_

Oby's eyes snapped open as his mental image of Rusty grinned and the others smiled, ready for action. Oby focused through the pain, "We all forgot one thing. I'm _never_ alone." He raised his hand with a

smile and a massive amount of magic erupted around it, "I may be a Fairy Tail Wizard, but I'll always have a Grimoire Heart." He slammed his hand into the ground, "ARC OF EMBODIMENT! SEVEN KIN REUNITED!" Light flashed and Oby managed to pick himself up with a new fire in his eyes as his old team appeared around him, "The love and help of our friends is what makes Fairy Tail strong. That's one thing Precht passed on to us as the Seven Kin. On our own we're each in the top one percent of the strongest wizards in the world. Put us all together and we're unstoppable. We'll never lose. That was my promise to them and I'll be damned if I'm going to break it."

Fairy Tail's S-Class stepped back, the numbers had just shifted decidedly against them. Then Oby's projection of Zera stepped forward with one hand raised, "Arc of Time, DISPEL!" Instantly the barrier winked out of existence. Makarov stared in shock and then the Seven Kin of Purgatory charged.

In less than a minute, Oby was sitting on top of Makarov's giant form with Kain holding him in place using his Curse Doll. Azuma and Rusty had Gildarts trapped with their combined magical constructs, Zancrow and Maria had Ur trapped inside a ring of unquenchable flames and Laxus was pinned to the ground with Zera holding a sword to his throat after having eaten all the lightning he could throw at her. Oby grinned at Master Makarov, "Do you surrender?" Makarov sighed and flopped his face in the snow. He had been expecting something like this. He picked his face up, "Yeah. You pass. Now let me up, this is bad for my back."

Oby hopped off and hugged his illusory friends, caught a quick kiss on the cheek from Zera and then they disappeared. As the other S-Class picked themselves up Oby Ice-Made a table and chairs for them to sit on. Oby took the seat between Laxus and Ur as they all sat down. Makarov cleared his throat, "Well, now that we've gotten the formalities out of the way, it's time to start planning. What should we do to them this year? We did a tournament last year and that definitely didn't work out right." Gildarts laughed with some slight embarrassment, the wizards being tested hadn't stood a chance against him, even when they all ganged up on him. "So," Makarov continued, "This year let's do something where they'll have a chance."

"We've already promoted two wizards this year though," Gildarts pointed out, "Do we really want to promote three in one year?" Makarov frowned thoughtfully and then Ur reached over and swatted Gildarts, "Ultear's taking the trial this year with Cana as her partner, and Gray and Lyon are Macao and Wakaba's partners! Don't stack a hopeless deck against our children!" Oby grinned as Gildarts backpedaled, "How about a maze Master? Gildarts and I can carve it into the mountain side and we can have three stages of the maze. Like uh, eight entrances, one for each examinee, four of the paths lead to me, Gildarts, Ur or Laxus, three lead to a big room where they have to fight against each other before they can move ahead, and one is a buy, it just runs straight through. Once everyone's made it through the first elimination round, we send em into the sure enough labyrinth and the first one out moves to the third stage."

Makarov kept thinking, "Hm—" Then his head snapped up, "Wait a minute, hasn't Ultear been learning your Arc of Time? And I know Cana can tell fortunes with those cards of hers. They'd get through any maze easily!" Oby made a slightly surprised gesture as if to say, "How was I to know that/what do you want from me? She's my

girlfriend!" Makarov frowned at him and then sighed, he was after all just looking out for his girlfriend. Makarov waved the idea aside, "Ok, so mazes are out. It would tip the odds far too much in one team's favor."

Lexus frowned, "We could make it a race. If Ultear isn't proficient enough with the Arc of Time to stop time that is." Everyone looked at Oby and he shook his head, "Sorry, she's that good. Takes to magic like a duck to water. She'll be as good with the Arc of Time as I am soon, and she's come up with ways to use it I never would've thought of. Have you ever been smacked in the head with a crystal ice ball flying at the speed of a cannonball? It hurts, and she can load that thing with Crash magic, which makes it even more destructive. My money's on her to win whatever challenge we set. She can see the past and future, so she'll know the answer to any riddle and the route through any maze in minutes at most, and she's got Cana's fortunetelling to verify anything she finds out with Arc of Time. Not to mention they could both tear through just about anything. Those two can be destruction incarnate if they want to be. Macbeth's Distortion is the only thing I can see having a chance against either of them. Macbeth's partnered with Sawyer, so if Sawyer runs interception to keep Ultear and Cana from lining up a direct punch those two could theoretically beat them since Distortion affects Ice and Ultear's crystal balls."

Oby sat back, "Eric and Natsu stand a viable chance because they're better hand to hand fighters and Natsu's fire is a natural counter to Ultear and Cana's Ice Make. Plus they're stubborn. Macao and Gray would get hopelessly stomped. If Wakaba uses his Smoke-body transformation to go intangible he's got a shot, Lyon would be as useless as Gray against Ultear and Cana though. Ultear or Cana winks at 'em and Gray and Lyon are both down for the count. I don't think they could beat the girls anyway, but I know how weak at the knees they go for those two."

Everyone was making various faces as Oby continued with his battle analysis, "Erza and Kagura might be able to fight evenly with Ultear and Cana. Erza's as good as Eric and Kagura's cut from the same cloth with Gravity magic to boot. Sorano and Yukino are good, but their weakness is in physical combat. That's the weakness of Celestial Magic, the user is usually sadly rather fragile. Ultear and Cana know that and Ultear excels at long range combat. Now that I think about it, I am going to have to teach those two something so that they can fight even without their celestial spirits. Maybe I can convince them to train with Erza, she's better than I am with physical combatâ€¦"

He trailed off thinking and then Lexus looked at him, "What about Jellal and Simon?" "Erza smiles at them and they're both down for the count. She glares, they run," Oby declared immediately, "If she says she'll go out with the winner, they'll knock each other out fighting over her, and Simon would never hurt his baby sister. They stand a valid chance against anyone else though. As good as Ultear and Cana are, they can't fight in the dark, and that's something Jellal and Simon excel at. Eric and Natsu have the best chance against Jellal and Simon because of their enhanced senses, Sorano and Yukino might have a chance since Celestial Spirits glow even in the darkest of darks, and Macbeth and Sawyer could just use area attacks that don't have to be aimed. Macao's fire would help him out if he could overpower Simon's Darkness magic, Wakaba and Lyon would get

pulverized."

"So what you're sayin' is that it could go any of a hundred different ways," Laxus declared. Oby nodded, "Yep. I'm still betting on Ultear and Cana though. Three of the seven opposing teams would be almost embarrassingly easy wins for them. No offense to Gray and Lyon, but they are both major liabilities against those two, and Sorano and Yukino just simply aren't fast enough to deal with them. That's the best odds any of the teams have. Of course, I'm not using my Arc of Time to look. That would totally spoil all the surprises."

The others nodded and continued batting ideas around. A little over an hour later, they had come up with a plan.

==One Week Later==

Teams Ultear, Erza, Jellal, Eric, Sorano, Macbeth, Macao and Wakaba arrived at the end of the road up Mount Hakabe. "That wasn't there before was it?" Macao asked Wakaba as he pointed to a small lone tower across the gorge. Across the way Oby grinned and sang, "They're heeere!" Ur stepped forward, "Ice Make Bridge!" A massive and ornate bridge of ice suddenly rocketed across the gorge and slammed into the ground in front of the examinees, as clear as an invitation could get.

The examinees hurried across and found Master Makarov waiting for them at the foot of the tower in his formal coat. As the last of them stepped off the bridge, Master Makarov waved his hand and the magic hiding the rest of the massive castle the S-Class had built with the help of Oby's Arc of Time dissipated, revealing the true scope of the enormous fortress before them as up on top of one of the towers Oby dispelled the howling wind around the mountains, leaving the entire area in a state of deathly quiet.

The examinees felt the hair on the backs of their necks standing on end at the sudden silence and the frightening glint of sadistic excitement in their master's eyes. "Welcome," Makarov declared, "Behold your trial. Within this fortress are five towers. You must ascend to the top of the central tower. Whoever makes it first, if anyone does, will be declared the winner. At the top of each of the four towers is one of our S-Class wizards. To ascend to the top of the fifth tower, you must obtain a key from each of them. Taking someone else's key will not work as each key is numbered and all the keys must match to let you through. Only two teams may enter a tower at any time. Those who fail will be ejected and wait out the trial in a sealed room in the central keep. If you try to tell each other what awaits in the towers, you will fail. You will face many obstacles and trials on your way to the top. I wish you all the best of luck," he grinned wickedly, "You're going to need it."

Then the projection disappeared and the massive gate in the side of the tower rumbled open. The examinees rushed in as the wind picked back up and the sixteen wizards found themselves in a massive courtyard. The central keep was round and set into the mountainside. The four towers were situated in the corners of the massive walls. They looked around and saw that each of the four towers had a sign over the door.

"Honor, Courage, Wisdom, Loyalty," Erza read aloud. "The four things necessary to be a successful S-Class wizard," Macao clarified. "But

why is there a tower for each of them?" Wakaba asked. "Maybe it's some kind of clue as to who's at the top?" Macbeth pondered. "I'll go check it out," Sawyer declared as he disappeared in a blur before Macbeth could stop him. A second later he bounced off a barrier in the door of the nearest tower which happened to be Courage as he tried to come back out to go check the other towers. A single line flickered into existence over the sign, slanting downward to the right. Sawyer staggered back clutching his now not quite as pointy as it was nose, "OW! What the heck?" Macbeth nodded, "It appears we cannot leave once we are in until we finish the trial. Sawyer and I will try Courage first."

Everyone watched him go feeling slightly sorry for him, courage was the one thing Macbeth was short on. Ultear closed her eyes for a few moments and then smiled, "Cana and I will take Wisdom." They made their way over to the wisdom tower and as they entered a line like the one over the door to Courage flickered on over the door to Wisdom. Kagura tugged on Erza's sleeve, "Maybe we should do Courage first too? You're braver than anybody I know." Erza smiled at the compliment and agreed. They followed Macbeth and Sawyer and as they passed through the door another line appeared over the door way forming an X with the first one as the door rumbled closed.

Natsu smacked a fist into his palm, "Eric! You smell that?" Eric sniffed and grinned, "Yeah! Let's go!" They took off and charged into Honor, the first line appearing over the door behind them. Macao and Wakaba exchanged a glance and said in unison, "Loyalty." They took off, Gray and Lyon right behind them. They rushed through the door neck and neck and the door rumbled shut behind them. That left Sorano, Yukino, Jellal and Simon alone in the courtyard.

Jellal looked at Simon, "Knowledge _is_ power. Wisdom?" Simon nodded, "Let's go." They took off and Sorano swapped a glance with Yukino, "I guess that leaves us with Honor."

==Courage==

Erza and Kagura quickly caught up to Macbeth and Sawyer. They were at the top of the tower standing in front of a door that led into the massive column in the center. Before they could say anything, the door opened and a terrible, leering, brightly colored face erupted out at them yelling, "OOGABOOGABOOGABOOGA!" Kagura jumped and a small "Eep!" escaped her as she hid behind Erza who stepped into a ready stance and reached for her sword. Sawyer and Macbeth jumped back as well, right off the stairwell. They howled in terror as they fell until they suddenly disappeared in a flash of light a few feet from the ground.

Gildarts pushed his mask up off his face with a grin, "Well that's two down!" He laughed and opened the door a little bit wider, "Come on in girls, that was just the preliminary! The real test is in here!" They stepped into a small room on the other side of the door. Gildarts closed the door behind them and his grin disappeared as he gestured to another door to a smaller room within the room, "Behind this door you will face your worst nightmare. You must overcome that nightmare within one hour. Once you do, you will have passed and the other door will open. If you are too afraid, you may turn back, the door will be right behind you at all times. All you have to do is turn around and walk out. If you do though, or if you run out of time, you will fail."

A bead of sweat rolled down the back of Erza's neck but she steeled her nerves, "Kagura, you ready?" Kagura nodded tentatively and gripped the blade her brother had given her. Gildarts nodded gravely, "If you're sure, then you may enter." Erza boldly stepped forward, pulled open the door and stepped through, Kagura close behind her. As the door closed, the nightmare began and the destruction of Rosemary Village roared to life around them.

==Honor==

Eric and Natsu backed away from the chalice that had appeared before them, earning Sorano and Yukino's immediate attention. "What is it?" Sorano asked. "That's liquid anti-magic!" Eric said in horror, "Even my Poison Dragon Slayer Magic won't protect me from that! Any wizard that drinks that is toast!" That wasn't what was scaring him though, what scared him was the plaque on the pedestal, "The door will open only when the chalice is empty." Sorano sighed and casually knocked it over. Her eyes widened as the ominous black liquid refused to spill out. It only confirmed their growing suspicion and Yukino whispered in horror, "One of us has to drink it!"

==Loyalty==

Two staircases wound up the inside of the tower, clearly meant for racing. The issue was the numerous traps and obstacles which from the look of it could be triggered from the sides opposite them. Macao and Wakaba stared upwards at the trap laden climbs ahead of them, "What have we gotten ourselves into?"

==Wisdom==

Jellal and Simon burst into the room at the top of the tower and blinked as they found themselves in an immense garden. They looked back at the door and the interior of the cold stone tower outside, and then back at the sprawling sunny meadow before them. Ultear and Cana were sitting at a nearby pavilion on a lake cheerfully enjoying some snacks that were set out for them. Ultear and Cana waved them over. Jellal and Simon swapped confused looks and then went to join them. They sat and chatted amiably for what felt like hours and then footsteps sounded on the boardwalk out to the pavilion.

They whipped around and saw Oby striding toward them. He stopped at the entrance to the pavilion and smiled, "Do you like my garden?" "It's beautiful," Ultear replied sincerely. Oby's heart warmed even though it was a sad smile he wore, "It's a shame our battle will destroy it. I will wait for you on that rock," he pointed to a large rock on a hill across the lake from the door. "Come when you are ready. If you want your keys, you must impress me. You may leave, but in doing so you will forfeit the trials. If you choose to fight me, then be warned, I will not kill you and I will try not to do any permanent damage, but that will be the extent of my restraint. Ultear, I love you, and I beg you not to hold the brutal pummeling you will get if we fight against me."

He disappeared and reappeared atop the rock grimly facing away from them, patiently waiting. Simon and Jellal swapped a horrified glance and Ultear and Cana looked worried. None of them had been expecting the "Wisdom" tower to contain a fight with the most powerful wizard in the guild, and with Oby begging forgiveness in advance, they knew

there was no way in hell he'd hold back.

9. Chapter 9: Honor Wisdom Courage Loyalty

Chapter 9 " Honor, Courage, Wisdom and Loyalty

==Ten Minutes Later==

Oby disappeared as Jellal's Heavenly Body Magic infused punch blasted through the space where he'd been sitting at the speed of a bullet. Before Jellal knew Oby had moved, Oby smashed his face into the rock. Jellal's nose broke, as did his cheek, jaw and several teeth. Jellal's entire face was instantly a mass of blood and bruises. Before anyone could move or even cry out in shock, Oby had torn Jellal's shoulders from their sockets, broken every one of Jellal's ribs and turned his entire torso into one giant bruise with a hurricane of rapid fire punches, and thrown him into the lake. As Ultear's crystal ball flashed toward Oby's head, his hand flickered up and caught it. He crushed the stronger than steel orb into dust with one hand and at the same time Ultear and Cana were flattened by an amount of gravity comparable to a mountain falling on them. Oby watched passively as Simon dove into the lake to save Jellal from drowning.

Oby stood before them, his expression murderous, "Yield." Ultear gasped for air as the gravity lifted, she had never seen Oby be so, so, brutal. Was this what he was really like? Oby conjured a sphere of light blue energy into his hand, "This is a ball of pure pain, the worst agony and torment you've ever felt. Surrender now, or I'll use it." Ultear's eyes widened and she was too stunned to speak, how could he be so cold?! People died from beatings like the one he'd just given Jellal and even if Jellal lived his face would probably be permanently wrecked! Cana picked herself up and let the recriminations fly.

Oby's eyes were as cold as ice as he flicked the ball of what he had called the worst torment imaginable at her. It turned into a pale blue lightning bolt and slammed into Cana too fast to even see, let alone dodge. Cana screamed and then collapsed, her sides heaving in agony as she struggled to hold onto her consciousness. Ultear yelled, "What are you doing?! Are you trying to kill us?!" Oby conjured another ball of pain, "Yield Ultear, or this will only get worse. You can't make S-Class if you get beaten half to death fighting me."

Ultear was on the verge of hyperventilating as Simon covered the area in darkness to get Jellal to safety. Then Oby waved his hand and the darkness was gone in an instant, revealing Simon dragging Jellal out of the lake. As soon as they were out of the lake, Oby launched his ball of pain at Simon before conjuring another one even as Simon collapsed roaring in pain. Oby looked down at Ultear, "Are you afraid Ultear?" "Yes," she said quietly as she looked at the horrifically cold visage of the boy she loved. "Then yield," Oby told her. "But," Ultear didn't get to finish her protest as the pain erupted through her, every bit as bad as Oby had promised and more. She screamed and blacked out.

==Meanwhile==

Macao flattened himself against the staircase as Wakaba fired a giant crossbow at him, "What the hell man?!" Wakaba just laughed as he raced on up the stairs. Macao growled, "Gray! Put 'em on ice!" Gray grinned, "With pleasure! Ice Make Floor!" Suddenly the stairs beneath Wakaba and Lyon turned to ice and sent them both sliding all the way back to the bottom. Macao laughed, "Come on Gray! Let's go win this thing!"

==Meanwhile==

Sorano took a deep breath and steeled her nerves. She extracted her Celestial Spirit Keys and knelt in front of Yukino, "Yukino, hold these for me." Yukino took them in confusion, and then her expression turned to terror as Sorano rose and turned to Eric, "You had better take care of her." Eric's eyes widened in horror as Sorano turned and reached for the chalice. Before she could lift it Eric leapt forward and snatched the poisonous draught away, draining it before anyone could protest. "ERIC!" "BIG BRO!" Eric staggered, the poison burned his mouth and throat like fire, it was like drinking fire. Eric coughed as his body told him to retch and vomit the vile stuff out.

==Five Minutes Later==

Erza lowered her sword as the last of the illusory attackers fell. Not far away Kagura did the same. They were both shaking, but standing. The door out appeared and Gildarts poked his head in as the illusion disappeared, "Wow. You two made quite a mess in here! Color me impressed!"

Erza and Kagura walked out and Gildarts handed Erza a key with her name on it, "Good job in there girls, I know that was a hard thing to face. I'm very proud of you both for standing your ground in there." Erza nodded with a smile, "Thank you Gildarts." Gildarts grinned, "Don't thank me yet! This is only your first test, you've still got three more to go! And that's before you even make it into the keep! This is all just the preliminaries!" Erza and Kagura were both wide eyed and slack-jawed at the revelation as Gildarts laughed and shooed them away. They passed a very exhausted looking Ultear and Cana on their way out. Ultear and Cana waved tiredly and Erza paused, "You guys look exhausted, how many towers have you completed?"

"Just one," Cana replied quietly. Erza and Kagura stared, "Which one?!" "Wisdom," Ultear replied, "I knew he was strong, but that was, terrifying." Erza grinned, "Well Kagura and I just got courage in spades, so maybe we should go try this scary Wisdom tower next!" Ultear laughed slightly, "You go have fun with that!"

If Erza had been a little bit calmer and not riding on the swell of her victory in overcoming her greatest fear, she might've heard the warning in Ultear's voice.

==Fifteen Minutes Later==

Erza pushed open the door at the top of the Wisdom Tower and stepped into the garden, marveling at how such a tremendous space could be in the top of a tower. Oby was sitting across the lake on top of a large rock. He was facing away from them as they stepped inside. Erza and Kagura waited for a few moments to see if he would do anything, then Erza called, "Oby!" Oby stood and then turned to face them from atop

the rock, "Kagura, step outside. You will not be needed for this test."

Erza and Kagura blinked, "Huh?" Oby jumped down onto the lake and walked across the surface, his footfalls barely making ripples as he strode closer, "Normally this is a three part test of wisdom undertaken by two competitors. As Erza will be the only taking my test this round, the test will be different. If you had one of your competitors here, you would be tested to see if you understood the wisdom and value of teamwork. If you were anyone else Erza, you would be tested on your ability to read people, specifically picking up on the fact that I usually abhor fighting, especially my friends. Howeverâ€¦"

He grinned and a vicious glint entered his eyes, "You Erza, are the daughter of my first master, the twin of my beloved rival, and my student. I can think of no one in this world whose power I would rather test. There is still one piece of wisdom you must have to pass this test, and we will see if you have it by going all out. That is why Kagura must step outside. We are about to have a battle that will shake the earth, if she stays in here she will get hurt." Erza nodded as her adrenaline started pumping, Kagura hugged her quickly, "Be careful sis," and stepped outside.

As soon as she stepped outside, Erza drew her sword. Oby pulled a matching one from thin air, his grin growing ever wider, "Now show me Erza, how strong you are!" He flashed forward and Erza narrowly blocked his opening strike. The collision of their blades sent up a shower of sparks and in an instant Oby had sprung back and turned the sparks into a roaring black inferno. Erza reequipped into her Flame Empress armor, quickly throwing up an anti-fire shield, and was shocked to find that the flames were still strong enough to leave her skin red and stinging even through her shield and armor as she sprang back and away.

As she landed Oby was on her again, this time forgoing his magic as the sparks flew and engaging her in the fiercest swordplay she had ever partaken in. It was a tremendous testament to the strength of their blades that they weren't shorn clean through by the tremendous force behind their blows. Erza finally managed to disengage and buy herself just enough time to reequip into one of her newest sets of armor. She quickly summoned a circle of blades and slashed at Oby, "HEAVEN'S WHEEL!" Oby deflected one of the blades and was through the whirling ring of death in an instant, rushing right at her and forcing her to block again. Then Oby pulled a second sword from thin air and blocked her left swing. Erza was too busy to even command the extra swords that made her Heaven's Wheel Armor so effective as she desperately worked to hold Oby at bay.

Then she suddenly became aware of a glowing white nimbus appearing around one of Oby's blades as he brought it in for another swing, _Crash Magic!_ Erza sprang back and Oby swiped through the space she had been in even as his second blade began to glow with Crash Magic as well. Oby slashed his sword through the air in front of him into a ready position and unleashed a wave of Crash Magic that Erza dodged with ease _Why is it moving so slow?_

"Very impressive Erza!" Oby called as he dismissed his blades, "You kept up with me even when I had slowed you down to a tenth of your usual speed!" Erza's eyes widened and then Oby grinned, "So now it's

time to see how you do against _my_ fighting style!" Erza immediately changed to her Lightning Empress armor, pulled her Adamantine Shield and drew her Sea Empress sword. The change came just in time as Oby's Storm God Howl slammed into her shield and hurled her nearly three miles, out past the garden and into the rocky wasteland beyond. A lesser wizard would've had every bone in their body shattered, but Erza's magic and armor protected her from the worst of it.

Even as she landed a massive boulder on the end of a magic chain was slamming into her shield. She blocked it and was only knocked a few feet back as she reequipped into her full Adamantine armor. Then she was struck by a black lightning bolt and sent to her knees. She reequipped to Lightning Empress and the electricity ravaging her system dispersed. Just as she was about to breathe a sigh of relief she was blown back by a massive torrent of black water. She slammed into a rock outcropping and held there by the pressure of the raging water until she reequipped into Sea Empress a moment later and managed to swing her sword, the blade allowing her to use her magic to part the water. She searched for Oby, he had to be there somewhere to have been keeping up that water burst, then a shadow fell over her. She looked up and her eyes were the size of dinner plates, "Oh you have got to be kidding me! Flight armor!"

Millions of tons of rock crashed down on the spot where she had been an instant earlier. Erza paused for just an instant to stare and Oby spoke from where he was floating in midair, "Very impressive Erza! You're doing very well! In terms of strength you are certainly worthy of promotion, however you still haven't proven yourself to have the wisdom needed. Of course that could be my fault, I haven't been going all out like I promised." Erza's eyes widened, _He's bluffing, he's GOT to be bluffing!_

==Meanwhile==

Ur smiled as Eric, Sorano, Natsu and Yukino stood before her at the top of the Loyalty Tower, "Congratulations, you passed with flying colors." Eric and Sorano blinked in surprise, the climb up had been so easy that they had been expecting another test, "Just like that?" Sorano asked in surprise as she accepted her key. Ur nodded, "Just like that." "So, the test was just to climb up here?!" Natsu asked. Ur smiled at him, "No the test was to climb up here without giving into the urge to sabotage the other competitor in what looked like a race." Sorano smiled, "It wasn't really that tempting, Eric just risked his life to keep me from doing the same for him. I'd have to be a pretty horrible person to sabotage him after that." Eric nodded, "And it would be kind of stupid to go shooting giant crossbows at her after I just went to all that trouble. That and she did try to beat me to it. It was so sweet that I'd probably ask her out if I wasn't already in love with Kinana. Hey Natsu, you should get together with Yukino since me and Sorano won't." Ur smiled as Eric and Sorano laughed at the looks on Natsu and Yukino's faces, "Maybe next year we should make sure our contestants go in a certain order to make them more challenging."

==Meanwhile==

There was a flash of lightning as Laxus appeared in front of Jellal as Simon suddenly stopped writhing in pain and sat up looking puzzled. "Jellal," Laxus said in a deadly quiet voice that seethed with outrage as little sparks of electricity flickered around him. It

was at this exact moment Jellal knew, he f***ed up.

"YOU FAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAIL!" Laxus roared, "YOU JUST ALLOWED YOUR BEST FRIEND TO DRINK WHAT FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES WAS DEADLY POISON! FOR WHAT?! A PROMOTION?! A LITTLE BIT OF PRESTIGE?! I'M EMBARRASSED, INSULTED, AND TEMPTED TO HAVE YOU BARRED FROM EVER ATTEMPTING THESE TRIALS AGAIN! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH AGAINST THE MORALS AND CODE OF FAIRY TAIL THAT IS?! AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO CLAIM YOU KNEW IT WASN'T REAL, I CAN HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS LOUD AND CLEAR! ERZA WOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOU AND YOU CAN REST ASSURED SHE WOULD NEVER LOOK AT YOU THE SAME AGAIN IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS LITTLE STUNT YOU JUST PULLED!"

If Jellal had shrunken in fear when Laxus started shouting, he absolutely dwindled away to nothing when Laxus mentioned the possibility of Erza finding out. Laxus snapped his fingers and the world shifted around them. Jellal and Simon found themselves sitting in an uncomfortable and unfurnished stone room. Wakaba and Macao looked up as they appeared and Gray and Lyon paused their quarreling for a moment. "So which tower did you fail?" Macbeth asked in a slightly dead tone. Jellal was still too horrified by what he had let happen to answer so Simon replied, "Honor. There was this cup of poison, and one of us had to drink it. Apparently Jellal was supposed to take the fall for me, but he let me drink it. Probably because he knows I like Erza too," he added in a slightly bitter tone.

Jellal turned ghostly pale as his best friend casually pointed out the reason he had been willing to throw him under the train and everyone stared. "Whoa," Sawyer said from where he was braiding Macbeth's hair, "Dude, that's cold." "Seriously," Wakaba added, "We only failed because we couldn't contain our competitive spirit against each other and got carried away! You let your best friend drink poison so you could have a shot at a girl who might not like either of you?" "And even if she liked you before," Macao added, "You know how much Erza cares about her friends. Do you really think she would go out with a guy who would throw his best friend under the train over her? My wife would leave me in a heartbeat if I did that to Wakaba, and she's not nearly as passionate about protecting her friends as Erza is."

Lyon laid a hand on Gray's shoulder, "We would definitely pass that test." Gray nodded, "We'd probably knock ourselves out fighting to keep the other from drinking it." Macbeth looked over her shoulder at Sawyer, "I hope you know I would never let you die for my sake Sawyer." Sawyer grinned, "You'd have to beat my hand to that cup. You're nuts if you think I'd let you drink it."

Jellal felt like less than an inch high of pure scum. He turned to Simon and immediately started bowing and begging forgiveness, "I'm so sorry! I'm a terrible person and an even worse friend! I can't believe I did that! I'm so sorry! Please forgive me! I've never been so ashamed of myself in my life! You can have Erza! I'll back off completely! I don't deserve her! I'm so sorry!" He kept bowing and begging for a very long time even though Simon assured him he was forgiven. Laxus smiled up at the top of the Honor Tower as he waited for the next contenders, "Well at least he learned his lesson."

==Meanwhile==

Oby appeared directly in front of Erza and drove a fist into her gut hard enough to launch her a mile straight up. Even as Erza reequipped into her Blackwing armor (Oby and Zera had helped her get it tailored to fit), Oby appeared above her, "HOLY SHADOW DEMON RAGE!" Erza was slammed into the ground every bit as fast as she had been flung into the air. She screamed in pain and then, just as the mad mix of light and dark dissipated, Erza felt a grappling claw wrap around her leg. Oby heaved the magic chain and spun, slamming Erza into and sometimes _through_ every rock face in the area.

By the time he released her Erza was covered in blood and bruises. Oby raised a hand as he saw her trying to stand, "Arc of Embodiment, Tower of Dingir!" The massive tower erupted and Oby's hand snapped out and caught Erza's sword as she came flashing in from his right, having reequipped into her Flight Armor and dodged even as the deadly tower erupted beneath her. Oby twisted first one of her swords from her grip, then the other, tossed them away in an instant and then blasted her away with a horizontal blast of gravity magic. Erza slammed into a rock face and fell forward.

Oby caught her before she could hit the ground, easily holding both her hands behind her back with one of his while the other rested on the back of her head. It was a position in which he held absolute power over the situation. _He could torch me in an instant_, Erza thought in horror, _And at this kind of range there's no way in hell he'd miss! I could knee him in the nuts, but as strong as he is that might just make him angry! Does he even __**feel**__ pain?!_ Oby looked into her eyes, "Yield Erza."

NO! NONONONO! Erza thought desperately, _I can't lose! Not like this! If I fail I'll let Kagura and Milliana down! They have so much faith in me! I can't let them down! There has to be a way!_ Then it hit her. Her first impulse was to dismiss the treacherous thought, but then, _It's my only chance!_ Oby noticed the look in her eye, "What are youâ€¦" Then she kissed him. Oby's grip went slack in surprise and Erza was able to break free and spring away.

Oby looked like the world had been dropped on him. Erza blushed crimson with embarrassment as he stared at her, "Now, now don't go getting any ideas! That wasn't because I like you or anything, it was just so I could get out of that hold! You have a girlfriend and she's my friend and we are never ever _ever_ going to speak of this again! Now let's, let's just _get on with it!_ We'll forget it ever happened! Um, Oby?" Oby blinked and snapped out of it. He covered his eyes laughing, "You sound so much like Zera right now! The only difference is she never had the nerve to kiss me to break out of a hold!"

Erza blushed even more furiously, "Sh-shut up! I, I didn't mean anything by it! It was just a tactical ploy! Can we just, finish the fight already?!" Oby just laughed even harder and Erza started to get angry, "ARMADURA FAIRY!" Oby stopped laughing and a vicious light entered his eye, "STORM KING!" Even as Erza's pink armor erupted into being around her, Oby was shrouded in a wicked looking charcoal gray and black armor. Erza stepped back in shock as Oby straightened up, "What, what is that?!"

Oby smiled triumphantly as the sky darkened and thunder rumbled overhead, "Every member of the Seven Kin has a uniform set of armor called Purgatory Armor. Yes, I mean the same Purgatory Armor Zera

gave you for your birthday. In doing so she made you an honorary member of Grimoire Heart and the Seven Kin. However there is one other thing we all have in common, and that is an upgraded and personalized version of our Purgatory Armor. Zera has what she calls Witch Queen armor, it magnifies all her magic tenfold and lets her fly among other things. Azuma has his Land's Wrath, Zancrow's got his Hellfire, and I don't know if Kain's made his yet, the way his magic works I'm not really sure he needs armor. Rusty has his Poet's Regalia and Maria has her Fallen Angel. This is my armor, the Storm King. While I'm wearing this armor, my Storm God Slayer magic is amplified enough for me to summon cataclysmic hurricanes at will. Even bringing this armor out calls forth a thunder storm and puts me in my element, as you can see," he added as the first drops of rain hit the ground. "You could say it's my equivalent of your Armadura Fairy armor," he explained, "And now that I'm wearing it, your chances of beating me have really and truly hit zero." Erza's heart hammered, "He's really seriousâ€" Oby smiled, "So I'll give you one more opportunity Erza. Yield before I end this fight in a very painful fashion."

Erza's instincts warred within her, and then as the purpose of the test finally hit her, she reached a snap decision. She raised her sword, "I have figured out the point of this test! You want me to yield, to admit that no matter how powerful I become there will always be someone stronger!" Oby blinked in surprise and then nodded. Erza's magic power suddenly erupted around her in a tremendous glowing red nimbus that blazed twenty feet around her and fifty feet high, "But upon my honor I will never surrender while my friends are counting on me! Kagura and Milliana have placed their faith in me to win these trials and I refuse to let them down! If this were a situation where their lives were on the line I would fight Zeref himself to my last breath! How can I grow strong enough to protect those I care about if I back down from every fight I'm hopelessly outclassed in?! I don't care if you are the strongest wizard I've ever met! I don't care if you're the strongest wizard in the world! As long as there's a breath left in my body you will not keep me down!"

Oby smiled in the edge of her glowing nimbus of power, "What an amazing spirit, no wonder I saw what I did just then." He raised his head, "Very well, let me show you the level of power you seek to overcome!" Erza's eyes widened slightly and then Oby sprang back, all the way to the nearest mountaintop as he called, "This Erza, is my strength!" An instant later the entire world was awash in blue. Erza went slack jawed at the tremendous magic before her as it blazed just beyond the edge of her own nimbus of power, "This is his real power level?!"

Then the tremendous aura of power was gone and Oby was back where he had been a moment earlier, a key in his hand. Erza blinked in surprise and let her magic aura fade as Oby smiled gently at her, "Congratulations Erza. You pass on the strength of your spirit. Anyone else I would beat until they surrendered, but I can see it in your eyes, your wounds would kill you before we reached that point." He smiled as Erza accepted the key in shock, "Now go beat the other two towers. Keep that Fairy Tail spirit strong and you'll pass those two no problem. This still might not be your year, but I'll be deeply shocked if you get knocked out in this first round."

The world shifted around them and they were back at the door, "See

you later Erza," Oby declared as he headed back to his rock. As he heard Erza close the door, he looked up at the sky with a thoughtful smile on his face, "Fairy Queen huh?"

AN: **__Yes Sawyer and Macbeth are a thing. Not sure they're to "romance" yet, but they are definitely closer to each other than any of the other canon Oracion Seis are to the others. Eric and Sorano will be very close friends now, but they won't be an item because as Eric pointed out, he's already in love with Kinana. As for Natsu and Yukino, well we'll just have to wait and see. Yukino's a few years older than she would be in canon because she is stated in canon to remember her sister who protected her from her parents' constant scolding, but she would've been at most 3 years old when Sorano was taken, which seems quite young to me to be getting scolded so often that she would need her big sister to stick up for her to a degree that it would be the thing she remembered most about Sorano. So Yukino's 4 years older than she is in canon, meaning she is currently 8. Natsu is 10. In fact, ya know what? Here's a list of confirmed current ages for everyone under the age of 17 as of year 777 in **Fairy Tail: Oberon__, underlined ones are made up or altered:_

Lexus & Warren: 16

_Oberon & Ultear__: 15_

_Bickslow, __Sorano, Eric, Macbeth, Sawyer and Richard__: 14_

Freed, Evergreen, Nab, Kinana, Hibiki Lates and Ren Akatsuki: 13

_Erza __& Zera__, Mirajane, __Gajeel__, Jellal, Lyon, __Simon, Azuma, Rustyroze__: 12_

_Gray, Cana, Elfman, Laki, Jet and Droy, Alzack and Bisca, Jenny Realight, Toby Horhorta and Yuuka Suzuki, __Zancrow, Maria di Angelo, and Elena Lockser__: 11_

_Natsu__, __Juvia Lockser, Lisanna, Levy McGarden, Sherry Blendy, __Max Alors, Lucy Heartfilia, Risley Law and __Kain Hikaru__: 10_

Vijeeter Ecor, Eve Tearm, Orga Nanagear, Kagura Mikazuchi, and Millianna: 9

_Araña Webb, __and Yukino__: 8_

Wendy: 7

Rufus Lore and Minerva: 6

Sting and Rogue: 5

Shellia: 2

End
file.